

Geraldine Teufel Schrader

Geraldine Schrader was a pioneer for the arts not only in the Sedalia school district, but for the entire community. A member of Smith-Cotton's Class of 1932, Schrader launched many programs and events that continue today, including New Score Singers, the community performance of Handel's "Messiah" and S-C's annual musicals.

Schrader earned a bachelor's degree in music from Central Methodist College and a master's degree in music education from Northwestern University. After teaching one year at New Franklin, she returned to Sedalia in Fall 1937 to take a teaching job. She became Director of Music for the district, leading the band, orchestra and vocal music departments. During her tenure she created the Madrigal Singers, the forerunners to the New Score Singers, and started an annual all-district orchestra performance which included students in grades 4 through 12.

Schrader's influence extended to State Fair Community College, as well, where she developed the music program and became chairwoman of the Fine Arts Department before her retirement in 1981. She also was the first woman to serve on SFCC's Board of Trustees and was an original member of the SFCC Foundation. In addition, she served as choir director for many years at Wesley United Methodist Church.

Schrader died in 2004 at age 89. In her book "Legendary Locals of Sedalia," historian Rebecca Carr Imhauser noted that Schrader's obituary stated: "Her influence as a music educator was seen in the number of students who became professional musicians and teachers."

Inducted in Smith-Cotton Activities Hall of Fame, 2014

