

Dr. David Walter Sloan

1937-2025



A resident of Austin, Texas and prominent lifelong educator, Dr. David Walter Sloan died peacefully on January 7, 2025, at the age of 87, surrounded by his five sons and family. Born on June 16, 1937, in Longview, TX to Richard M. Sloan, deceased. and Geraldine Flahie Sloan, deceased. He is preceded in death by Kermie Ann Faust Sloan, his second wife; Timothy Ann Hardy Sloan DiNino, his first wife; sister Elizabeth (Betty) Mabel Sloan Perez, and brother Timothy Todd Sloan, USAR Retired. David is survived by his five sons, David Michael Sloan, wife Dena Guisti, of Baytown, Texas; George Todd Sloan, of Austin, Texas; Timothy Patrick Sloan, wife Elizabeth of Houston, Texas; Richard Geoffrey Sloan Sr., wife Marianne Gordey, of Austin, Texas; and Matthew Hardy Sloan, and wife Crystal Len, of Bay City, Texas; step-children Grady F. Tollison, III, wife Amanda, and Rachel Tollison Cahoun, husband David. of Oxford, Mississippi. In addition, he is survived by 9 loving grandchildren, their spouses, 2 step-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, numerous cousins and other relatives who reside in

Texas and across the United States. David married Timothy Ann in 1957 while attending UT-Austin and they raised 5 sons. His second marriage was to Kermie Ann, whom he met and married in 1983 while living in Oxford, Mississippi. David lived a full and vibrant life from beginning to end and touched the lives of many people along the way.

Being a lifelong musician came naturally to David, as he began learning piano from his grandmother, Grace Newlin Sloan at an early age of 5. She was a piano teacher and organist at schools and churches from Ft Worth to Northern Louisiana, and even played piano to silent movies. He began playing the tuba in the 4th grade and later played dual instruments of tuba and double-bass fiddle while in the high school orchestra and band. He served as the drum major of the WFHS Coyote Marching Band, in Wichita Falls, Texas, with longtime friend Judge Micheal O'Neal.

Immediately after graduation from Wichita Falls High School in 1955, he headed to Austin to enroll in summer school at The University of Texas at Austin to pursue a degree in music education. While attending UT, he performed with the Austin Symphony and UT Symphony. He studied theory under composer Clifton Williams, conducting under Harry Lantz, and Dr Nelson G Patrick, professor emeritus and former dean of the UT School of Music. While famed composer Igor Stravinsky held temporary residence at UT for the Inter-American Symposium of Contemporary Music in 1965, David served as his administrative aid and performed at Hogg Auditorium under the baton of Stravinsky. He was a member and low-brass section leader of the UT Longhorn Band, the "*Showband of the Southwest*," for two years in 1958-59, under the direction of longtime friend and colleague, Vincent R. DiNino, director and professor emeritus.





Upon graduation, David returned to his roots in Wichita Falls teaching orchestra at Barwise Middle School, and Rider High School. During graduate school at UT, he worked again with Dr Patrick, as the Assistant Director of Music at the University Interscholastic League of Texas. His first collegiate teaching role was as Director of Music Extension and Double-Bass Instructor at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He was among the first faculty hired at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa, Texas, serving as the Faculty and Department Chair of Music. His final collegiate role was serving as Chair of the Music Department at the University of Mississippi at Oxford and teaching music theory, conducting, and serving as a graduate advisor.

In 1983 upon accepting the position in the Eanes ISD as Orchestra Director at Westlake High School and Hill Country Middle School with only nine students. He developed the program to state honor orchestra status placing the Westlake Orchestra as a superior ensemble in the state of Texas. His students at Westlake lovingly named him “Doc” Sloan. Upon retirement from Eanes ISD in 1997, he devoted his time to a new string business, Westbank String Shop. He continued to adjudicate UIL Texas State Solo & Ensemble contests, as well as numerous area, regional, and state orchestra competitions throughout Texas for many years.

David received multiple degrees including a Bachelor’s of Music 1959 (University of Texas at Austin), Master’s of Music Education 1965 (Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls), and Doctorate of Musical Arts, PhD, 1970 (The University of Texas at Austin). His dissertation for the DMA degree focused on the betterment of secondary music education in Texas schools, and he was one of the earliest recipients of this degree from UT. His professional affiliations included Texas Music Educators Association (Past Vice President, Orchestra Division), Texas Orchestra Directors Association (Founder and Past President), Mu Omicron (Founder, Vice President), American String Teachers Association (Past President of Missouri ASTA), Phi Mu Alpha (Past President of Alpha Iota Chapter).



Family-owned Westbank String Shop was born out of the dream of “Doc” Sloan. After retiring in 1997 from a career in music, “Doc” opened Westbank String Shop. The enterprise began in his garage with just three rentals in 1995. Together with Kermie, the shop has provided quality and affordable string instruments to new students in Austin area elementary and middle school orchestras. In 1996, “Doc” attended the University of New Hampshire Violin Craftsmanship Institute, under the direction of Horst Kloss, becoming a certified luthier. In August of 2012, his son, Todd, purchased the shop and continues the family tradition. “Doc” retired in 2012 but continued to play symphony and jazz gigs until 2019.

David had a life of music. He performed as a principal bassist with many orchestras including San Antonio, Austin, Midland-Odessa, Wichita Falls, Corpus Christi, Atlanta, and Memphis. David had multiple performances throughout his life with the likes of jazz musicians Dick Goodwin, Jim Hall, Tommie Griffith, Forest Goodenough, Page Cavanaugh, Red Norvo, Joe Jones, Peter Nero, Roger

Williams, Benny Goodman, Johnny Gimble, Corkey Robinson, Woody Herman, Bucky Pizzarelli, Milt Hinton, and Chet Atkins. He performed as a bassist with his lifelong friend Dick Goodwin and their jazz quintet toured South and Central America during the summers of 1975 through 1977. In the summer of 1978, the Dick Goodwin Jazz Quintet served as the core band for the USC Left Bank Big Band at the Spoleto Music Festival with Buddy Rich, Phil Woods, and Woody Herman bands. The summer finale for the quintet was recording their first studio album in Augusta, Georgia, which is still enjoyed by his family, friends, and fans of jazz music across the country



David spent a lifetime learning, teaching, and performing music and never missed a downbeat. His love for music took him from being in the Texas All-State High School Orchestra, to playing gigs across the US and Central and South America, performing with countless musicians who could rely on him to know any tune that was called. From playing in trios, big bands, symphony orchestras, directing orchestras or musicals in the pit, to performing on the grandest stages, music found David and he loved to perform. As an educator and professor, he inspired many to begin their musical journey while encouraging and challenging them to become the very best. His favorite musical ensemble, the Sloan Family Band, is a ragtag group comprised of his entire extended family, all who played or sang at annual family reunions, a tradition he created in the late 80's. His favorite place was to sit front and center at the opera enjoying the

arias and musicians of multiple opera companies, or listening to his favorite jazz tunes by Oscar Peterson, Ray Brown, or Chick Corea. Aside from his musical passions, David, along with Kermie, loved to do gardening in their backyard growing a variety of vegetables, peppers, and herbs. David was the consummate chef and loved to cook, bake bread, barbeque, and enjoyed being outdoors sailing, hunting, and fishing with his sons and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, David requested memorial donations be made to support the Kermie F. and David W. Sloan Endowment for the UT String Project, University of Texas at Austin Fine Arts - ATTN Development, 2301 Trinity St. Stop D1400, Austin, TX, 78712. URL: <http://links.utexas.edu/bziftzq>

A "Celebration of Life" ceremony will be held on February 22, 2025, 2:00 PM, at Austin HS PAC Auditorium, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez St, Austin, TX 78703, with guests from the *Doc Sloan Memorial Orchestra* and *Dick Goodwin Jazz*. A committal service will be held at a date to be determined at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Oxford, Mississippi, a church where David and Kermie met and were married. David wished to have his remains interred at the St Peter's Columbarium alongside Kermie's remains, his wife of 29 years.

