

Michael Gene Cousins '62 died May 10, 2017, in Burr Ridge, IL, at age 76. At IWU, he was a member of the Apollo Quartet, which spent eight weeks in the summer of 1962 entertaining troops in the South Pacific. Michael then went on to have a distinguished career as a tenor, singing leading roles in major opera houses throughout the world; he has performed in Milan, Rome, Paris, Prague, Munich, New York, San Francisco, and Tel Aviv, among others. In his professional repertoire, he specialized in the *bel canto* technique and the operas of Mozart. Michael met his lifelong love, Diane Reinema, at IWU. In 1970, the pair moved to Europe with their two children; there, Michael learned to speak German, French, and Italian. When the family returned to the U.S. in 1978, they settled in New Jersey. In 1992, while Diane was battling cancer, Michael began teaching vocal performance and pedagogy at the University of Northern Iowa. Four years after Diane's death, Michael relocated to Kansas City and accepted a position at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-KC. He continued singing in Europe and the U.S. after he became a full-time teacher, devoting the same care and passion to his students that he had invested in his own professional career. Michael is survived by his son **Thomas Cousins '90**, his daughter Janis Cousins Risse (who inherited his vocal talents), his brother Steve, and five grandchildren.