



Horace "Oz" Hayes

10-1-1933 to 10-4-2022

Oz was born into a San Francisco family that arrived there in the 1840s, before the Gold Rush. His great grandfather, Thomas Hayes, for whom Hayes St. is named and who was San Francisco's first county clerk, bought land from Market St. to Golden Gate Park for 7¢ an acre. His home was on the site of Davies Symphony Hall. His brother Michael built the original Hayes mansion in San Jose. The family owned seven ranches in Visalia on which they raised cotton, grapes and cattle. Oz's work has been to manage these properties.

After graduating from San Francisco's Lowell High School, Oz attended Duke University and Yale Graduate School, getting degrees in musicology and European history. After serving in the Army for six years, he worked for Wells Fargo Bank, serving as banking officer on board the Matson cruise ship Mariposa for two years. As his mother, Consuelo Osgood, was an opera singer in the Bay Area, Oz has had a lifelong interest in opera. The Osgood Drug Stores in Oakland were the forerunners of Walgreens.

Oz is a founder and president of the Vocal Arts Foundation in San Francisco which finances the Metropolitan Opera auditions in northern CA. He is a member of the Metropolitan Opera national council which requires four trips a year to NYC. He has been on the Merola Opera Program board for 20 years. Among his friends are many world-famous opera singers.

Oz has also lived in Sausalito, Mill Valley and for the past 40 years, Los Altos. His companions for the last 12 years have been two black Labradors: Russ, 13, and Sheeka, 11. His hobbies are genealogy and music, which have taken him to Europe many times, mostly Germany. He was on the board of governors of the Society of California Pioneers for 35 years. He still volunteers at Stanford University's archives of recorded sound and is on the boards of the California Heritage Council and Palace of Fine Arts.