



Jerry Horner

March 28, 1935 - February 26, 2019

Jerry Horner, one of the world's cherished and influential classical musicians and mentors, has passed away at age 83. The humble son of a fisherman, Jerry Horner rose to perform on the greatest stages in the classical music world. Early in his career, he was the principal violist of the Houston, Dallas and Pittsburgh Symphonies. In these orchestras, he led the viola sections under renowned conductors Leopold Stokowski, Sir John Barbirolli, Donald Johanos, and William Steinberg. He appeared as soloist more than fifty times with these and other orchestras.

In the last half of his career, he devoted himself to chamber music as the violist with the Vermeer, Claremont, Berkshire, Toledo, and New Arts Quartets. He spent twenty years as the violist of the Fine Arts Quartet, which was in residence at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. As a mentor and teacher, he held professorships at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Indiana University, Bloomington, Northern Illinois University, The North Carolina School of the Arts and the University of Pittsburgh.

A master teacher, Jerry Horner gave freely of himself to help other string quartets find their sound, and to express themselves musically. The Penderecki, Kodaly, Eder, Jose White, Villiers, Tiberius, Montclair, Graffe Quartets, and many others, sought his mentorship and guidance as they launched their international careers. Likewise, many dedicated orchestra players around the world studied with Jerry Horner.

Determined to promote the love and joy of classical music, Jerry Horner also co-founded and co-developed a model of string academies and pedagogical approaches that taught young children in the inner cities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in Bloomington, Indiana, to share in the life of beautiful music making. This model of string instruction has been replicated around the world.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Jerry Horner traveled the world and made good friends everywhere. A lover of food, wine, art, music, and conversation, he was a true global citizen. Good friends everywhere will miss him at their dinner tables.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Margaret Clements, two children, Lynn and Alan Horner, and Alan's wife, Nancy Higgins Horner. His sisters, brother, and their families: Vicki and Charles Whaley, Jill and Rich Hughes, and Jack and Roberta Horner, mourn his loss. The legions of students and friends he has influenced around the globe both celebrate his life and grieve his passing.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a fund that will create a residency for a string quartet to promote and perform one of the greatest repertoires known to man. Donations can be made through a link on his website:

www.Jerryhorner.com

Celebration of life concert will be announced at www.allencares.com

Comments



“ I am sorry to learn of the death of Jerry Horner. He, or course, was a valued member of the Fine Arts Quartet at UWM, and a colleague of mine for several years. I wish the remaining members of his family well! Jane Bowers; jmbowers@uwm.edu

Jane Bowers - March 02 at 01:54 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Horner Family. With sincere sympathy, The Manghera Family, San Pedro, California



Vina Manghera Jones - March 02 at 12:51 PM



“ Margaret,

We are so sorry to hear about Jerry's passing! Although we did not know him long relative to the full life that he lived, he impressed us with his breadth of knowledge, his broad world view, and big heart. We will remember him fondly as a distinguished, generous, and kind man. Our thoughts are with you and your family!

Love,

Bill and Carol Hetrick

Carol Hetrick - March 02 at 11:07 AM



“ I recall that during the London bombings of 2005, Jerry was the first person to call me to see whether my wife and I was alright. When he called I didn't realise my wife was on the first train. His friendship, compassion will never be forgotten. Good speed Jerry, Heavens orchestra is welcoming its newest member.



Alain Lee - March 02 at 08:40 AM