



Allen Russell White

October 5, 1939 - December 6, 2021

Allen Russell White, born Oct. 5, 1939 in Boston, MA, died Dec. 6, 2021, at Bloomington Hospice House.

Allen (Al) was the child of two professional musicians, Vera and Lawrence White, and began his own musical career at the age of 6 as a chorister at the Boston Trinity Episcopal Church Boys Choir. While an undergraduate student at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, he studied voice and choral conducting and trained in lighting design and technical theater. Upon graduation in 1961 he joined the US Army Band and Chorus where he performed for President Kennedy and for numerous dignitaries at the White House and State Department.

After a return to Indiana University to complete his Master's Degree in Music, Allen was appointed to the School of Music faculty and spent the next 38 years teaching and designing lighting for numerous operas, ballets, and other School of Music presentations. During this time he served as a lighting designer/ technical director for performances in the US, Korea, Israel, Germany, Austria, and The Czech Republic. Upon retirement from the School of Music in 2004, his contributions to musical performance and event planning continued for the IU Foundation, IU Alumni Assn., IU Athletic Dept., and for the Ceremonies Unit of the IU President's Office. He also served as an events consultant for many activities at IUPUI and for the Indianapolis Violin Competition. His final retirement came in 2019. In 2020 he was honored to be awarded the Bicentennial medal for his contributions to Indiana University.

Volunteer activities throughout his life included the Boy Scouts of America-Order of the Arrow, the IU Hospital Bloomington Welcome Center, Buskirk Chumley Theater, IU Dance Marathon for Riley, IU Little 500 Bike Race, and Meals on Wheels. He was a member of the IU Alumni Assn, President's Circle, Varsity Club, the First Christian Church Choir, and the Monday Lunch Bunch.

Allen and Nancy Barnet met at Indiana University School of Music in 1957 and were married in 1961. She survives. Also surviving are daughters Anne (Mike) Hockersmith, Beth White(Neil Marcus), and Laura Waddey, brother Michael White(Elizabeth), Sister-in-law Linda Barnet, and grandchildren Paul (Marie-Sarah Lacharite)Grubbs, Elizabeth (Menassi Morehouse)Grubbs, Rachel Waddey, Benjamin Waddey, Andrew Waddey, and Nathaniel Marcus.

Allen loved his family, Indiana University, IU sports, music, boating on Lake Monroe, family vacations, living in the woods, his friends and colleagues, seeing all his former students succeed in music and the theater, and watching his grandchildren grow into caring and capable adults.

Services will be held at First Christian Church 205 East Kirkwood Street in Bloomington on Monday December 13, 2021 at 1:00PM with calling hours from 11:00AM to 1:00PM also at the church on Monday.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to IU Health Riley Hospital for Children, Indianapolis, or to the IU Health Bloomington Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Service at IU Health, P.O.Box 1149, Bloomington, 47402. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 13. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First Christian Church
205 East Kirkwood Ave
Bloomington, IN 47408

Memorial Service

DEC 13. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First Christian Church
205 East Kirkwood Ave
Bloomington, IN 47408

Tribute Wall

MM

“ Al was one of my favorite people to work with at IU. He and I worked several events together and I admired his talent, knowledge, and candor more and more with each passing year. He was a mastermind when it came to lighting, staging and technical details and could transform a mundane space into something truly magical. We shared a lot of laughs and I am grateful to have worked with him for so many years. He was an IU treasure and will be greatly missed. My sympathies go out to his family...I am so very sorry for your loss.

With love and prayers,
Megan Mauro

Megan Mauro - January 25, 2022 at 04:59 PM

PN

“ Dear Nancy and family, I am so sad to hear of Al's passing. Our collaboration goes back to East Hall when I worked on his Light Crew. My parents were in shock while watching the last outdoor opera (Mephisto) when I climbed a scaffold to change gels during the act break. I knew I could do it because Al told me I could. We later became colleagues when I finished school and became the Opera Costumer. Monthly opera schedules, opening the MAC, touring...wow we were young! Al always kept us laughing and on task. Miss you Al, rest in piece. Much love, Patty (Pat Vanderbeke Naylor

Pat Vanderbeke Naylor - January 21, 2022 at 04:26 PM

DE

“ Dear Nancy and extended family,
We recall with fond memories the years that our families shared
events of music and fellowship. We send our sympathies to you.
Dave and Carol Ebeling

Dave Ebeling - December 19, 2021 at 03:42 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Allen Russell White.



December 12, 2021 at 09:25 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased
for the family of Allen Russell White.



December 12, 2021 at 02:55 PM

JW

“ Although I never personally knew him I knew the daughters..
sending condolences love and prayers to you Laura and your sister
and family..
Sincerely
Janice warkenin

janice warkentin - December 12, 2021 at 02:15 PM

MA

“ As a young professional in my first job out of grad school, nearly 25 years ago now, Al was always so supportive, helpful, and understanding. He continued to be a wonderful resource and colleague ever since. I will miss seeing him at Auditorium shows, comparing notes and catching up.

My deepest condolences to Nancy and their family. You are all in my thoughts.

Maria Talbert

Maria - December 11, 2021 at 10:04 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Allen Russell White.*



December 10, 2021 at 10:49 PM

RC

“ *I was always appreciative of Allen's friendship and professionalism. He always seemed to have so many balls in the air at the same time but there was never a question that each would be handled with a smile and courtesy. His lighting designs were always creative and effective. Allen was highly respected not only in the Jacobs School of Music but throughout the profession.*

Our deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

Ray and Molly Cramer

Ray Cramer - December 10, 2021 at 04:45 PM

DS

“ I always admired how you and Allen made the most of retirement together, Nancy. I'm so sorry for your loss. My condolences to you and your family. - ralf (from VIM)

Debora Shaw - December 10, 2021 at 10:46 AM

RH

“ I'm so sorry to hear this news. The Whites were our dear friends and neighbors back in the day, and I always enjoyed seeing Allen and Nancy around town. My heartfelt wishes to all of you for peace and solace. May his memory be a blessing.

Ramsay Harik - December 09, 2021 at 09:00 PM

DO

“ Nancy

So very sorry to hear of your loss, thoughts and prayers

Donna Carson

donna - December 09, 2021 at 04:53 PM

JC

“ Jason Wells/Mid-America Sound Corp. purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Allen Russell White.



Jason Wells/Mid-America Sound Corp. - December 09, 2021 at 02:08 PM



“ *I can't begin to measure the impact Al had on my life and career. He mentored me at IU through the opera program, placed me at the Lyric Opera of Chicago as my first job and invited me back to IU on two occasions to become part of the staff of the Opera house. The last thing we did together was a concert a few years ago. He was a great mentor to me.*

Kevin Patterson - December 09, 2021 at 12:19 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Allen Russell White.*



December 09, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ *What an incredible example of a husband, father, and grandfather! Your family loved you beyond measure and it was so obvious! Rest easy, Mr. White, your work is now done.*

To Mrs. White, Laura, Beth, Anne, and all of the grandchildren - my heart is breaking for you all over this great loss. Please know that I am praying for peace for each of you during this hard time.

*Much love to all of you,
Liesl*

Liesl Wingert - December 08, 2021 at 11:00 AM

CH

“ I was privileged to be the Director of Volunteer and Visitor Service when Allen joined us as a volunteer - his infectious smile and quick wit were enjoyed by all who came into contact with him. Thank you to his wife and family for sharing him with us - we gained a wonderful volunteer with Allen.

IU Health Bloomington Hospital Volunteer

Connie Hill - December 07, 2021 at 07:10 PM