



Kathryn A. Lukas

September 7, 1945 - June 15, 2025

Kathryn A. Lukas (“Kate”) passed away recently at her home in Bloomington, Indiana at the age of 79. She was born in 1945 in New Orleans, Louisiana, to parents Michael A. and Aldona Lukas (deceased). Kate was an internationally known musician who recently retired as a Professor of Flute at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Kate grew up in Chicago and studied music at DePaul University. She received a Fulbright Fellowship in 1968 to study in England and completed her musical education by obtaining her Master of Music degree at King's College, University of London, in 1971.

Kate was a former faculty member of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and of the Royal Academy of London. She was the former principal flute of the Santa Fe Opera Company and served as guest principal flute with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

As a proponent of new music, Kate worked with Berio, Xenakis, Elvis Costello, Thomas Ades, Birtwistle, Maxwell Davies and many other prominent composers while a member of the Composers Ensemble and Music Theatre in Wales. She performed numerous broadcasts of solo and chamber music

repertoire for the BBC, Radio France, and regional German radio stations. She commissioned works through the Arts Council of Great Britain and recorded for Nimbus and Wergo.

Kate specialized in contemporary flute music as a performer and teacher. As a member of the Ensemble Dreamtiger, she recorded "East-West Encounters" for Cameo Classics. She also played flute on English punk band Wire's song "Strange", which is featured on their 1977 album "Pink Flag." She also played flute on "Heartbeat" from their 1978 album "Chairs Missing."

During her years of teaching at Indiana University, Kate forged close bonds with her flute colleagues and with her students, many of whom she followed in their careers after they graduated. Kate was a loving family member who kept in close touch with her relatives in Chicago and Cleveland while living in Bloomington. She was a gracious host to visits by relatives and friends, accompanying them when touring Nashville, Indiana and other sights in Brown County and performing impromptu flute solos for them. She inherited her love of tennis from her father and never missed watching all the major tennis tournaments, including the recent French Open.

Kate is survived by her brothers James and Michael (Marjorie), along with nieces Jennifer, Kristen, and Mary and nephew Michael Jon, and nine grandnieces and grandnephews. A memorial service in celebration of Kate's life will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at the Allen Funeral Home at 4155 S. Old State Road 37 in Bloomington, Indiana. Interment will occur at a later date at St. Casimir's Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that you make a donation to the Indiana University Music Department or to Ranch Cat Rescue at Post Office Box 3423, Bloomington, Indiana 47402.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **24.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

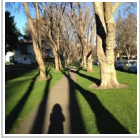
Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Celebration of Life

JUN **24.** 7:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ How sad to read the news of Kate Lukas, an inspiring flute teacher and artist who became a good supportive friend during my first years in London in the late seventies and early eighties. She invited me to visit her in Santa Fe when she was principal flute at the Opera and was a wonderful host. I will always remember her. RIP

Hilda Paredes - June 29, 2025 at 12:33 PM

RS

“ Rowland Sutherland planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathryn A. Lukas.

Rowland Sutherland - June 27, 2025 at 07:49 AM

DS

“ Kate Lukas was my teacher flute from 1993 until 2001. She was a significant source of support throughout my teenage years and into adulthood. She fostered my interest in contemporary flute music. She was the kind of teacher that would meet you right at your level and then take you to the next. I will always be grateful to have had her in my life. My fondest memories include her smile, the sound of her laughter and the way she pronounced my name. Sending my deepest sympathies to the family, Dara Freund Stucker

Dara Stucker - June 24, 2025 at 12:55 PM

GU

So many lovely personal stories of our friendly relationship with Kate. We were friends from our mid-20's in London and Bristol UK. She gave me a cook book that I still use. Moosewood Cookbook. Last saw her (ran an Improvisation Masterclass for her students) in 2014. We had fun.

George Platts UK - July 22, 2025 at 03:18 AM

FF

“ From Olivia Dorer (student) and Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Kathryn A. Lukas.



From Olivia Dorer (student) and Family - June 24, 2025 at 12:34 AM

FF

“ From Olivia Dorer (student) and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathryn A. Lukas.

From Olivia Dorer (student) and Family - June 24, 2025 at 12:34 AM

TH

“ Teddie H. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathryn A. Lukas.

Teddie H. - June 23, 2025 at 06:01 AM

HI

“ Her students and colleagues at IU purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kathryn A. Lukas.



Her students and colleagues at IU - June 23, 2025 at 05:56 AM

CC

“ We are so sad to hear of Kate's death. During our years in Bloomington, she was an esteemed colleague to my husband, and a cherished friend to both of us. We often shared meals and she was always a welcome guest in our home. Three years ago we moved home to Canada and regret that we will be unable to attend her memorial, and send our condolences to Kate's family.

Carol and James Campbell

Carol Campbell - June 20, 2025 at 02:49 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Kathryn A. Lukas.



June 20, 2025 at 10:24 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathryn A. Lukas.

June 20, 2025 at 10:24 AM