

Michael Hatfield

October 1, 1936 - July 4, 2020

Michael Hatfield was born in Evansville, Indiana in 1936, as the only child of Virginia and Joe Hatfield. He will be sorely missed and long remembered by those who loved him: daughter, Andrea Hatfield; son, Brent Hatfield, his wife, Skaidrite (Skip) Hatfield and his former wife, Lenore Hatfield, who so kindly provided the chronology of Michael's musical life.

He studied both trumpet and horn in his youth. He was a student at Purdue University School of Engineering in 1954. He then attended Indiana University School of Music from 1954-1958, receiving a Bachelor of Music and the first Performer's Certificate. His teachers were Philip Farkas, Verne Reynolds and Christopher Leuba.

He became Assistant Principal Horn of the Indianapolis Symphony in 1958 and moved to third horn from 1959 – 1961. He became Principal Horn of the Cincinnati Symphony in 1961 and served until 1984. He was a member of the Cincinnati Woodwind Quintet with principal colleagues of the Symphony which performed in NYC Town Hall in 1969. He was Adjunct Professor of Horn at Cincinnati Conservatory of Brass Woodwind Percussion Division.

Michael served as Second Horn to Phillip Farkas in the Aspen Music Festival Orchestra from 1960-1968 and Co-Principal from 1972-1988 and was a faculty member of the Aspen Music School during those summers. He also

performed as Principle Horn of the Santa Fe Opera, Chautauqua Festival Orchestra, Music Midwest, the Grand Tetons Music Festival and the Bloomington Camerata Orchestra.

Michael became Professor of Horn at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 1987 at the recommendation of his former teacher, Philip Farkas, who was retiring from that position. He later became Chair of the Brass Department until he retired in 2006.

He was an active member in the International Horn Society, performing as featured artist in 1983 and 1985 HIS International Workshops and served 2 terms on the Advisory Council. He was presented with the Punto Award in 2003 and elected Honorary Member in 2006.

Michael was a very humble man and he did most of his good deeds anonymously and to his dying day he was very happy if he could do something good for someone. Per Michael's wishes, no funeral service will be held. Michael Hatfield, hornist, teacher, and friend, rest in peace.

Memorial contributions in Michael's honor may be sent to Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in Bloomington. Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

BF

“ My condolences to the family of Mike Hatfield. Mr. Hatfield was my teacher at CCM in Cincinnati while I was a Master's student from 1979-81. (and I also house-sat for him when he went to Aspen for the summers!) The world has truly lost a fine, caring compassionate and talented man--as the other testaments express.

Horn teaching was only part of your lessons with him. He was a counselor, father figure, psychologist as well as amazing teacher of the horn. When I lost my mother suddenly, he was more concerned with my emotional health than my playing. He always had time for his students.

His performances with the Cincinnati Symphony were stellar--but don't try to compliment him! His humility was profound, and he was very ill at ease with praises about his performances:)

As mentioned already, he had all the etudes and orchestral excerpts memorized (his vision was very poor)--but it was a challenge when the orchestra performed a new piece--but no worries, he had it memorized in time! His special advice on mastering difficult passages was priceless! I'll never forget as I was working on a performance of the Bach Brandenburg, that he said 'Take out the F slides! It will make your horn lighter" (I was performing standing). What great advice! So much wisdom was bestowed behind those doors!

You will be truly missed Mr. Hatfield. You have earned your reward.
Play on,
Rebekah Folkens

Becky Folkens - August 25, 2020 at 10:23 PM

PG

“ I feel so lucky to have known Mike. He set the bar high for his generosity, kindness and humility. Always the consummate professional and gentleman. Dedicated to his students with a rare passion. I couldn't have asked for a more expert and intuitive teacher, or a more kind and thoughtful mentor. I have such wonderful memories of our time together at IU and Santa Fe. He was responsible for guiding the launch of my career, and so many others. I learned how to teach from Mike, how to listen, and I'm forever grateful for the time I had with him.

Paul Gambill - July 16, 2020 at 07:02 PM

TW

“ I'm so sorry to learn of Mr. Hatfield's passing. Like many others, I was a horn student of his, and learned so much from him.

Mr. Hatfield was a serious man, and a serious teacher. His teaching implied the gravity, the responsibility of playing the horn at the highest level. He had all of this complicated music memorized. Not just the excerpts, but nearly any exercise you would show up with. Gally, Maxime-Alphonse, Reynolds, he knew them all note for note.

But for all of his seriousness, horn students of his knew that he had a lead foot. I told him, once, that I was driving up to Indianapolis to pick up someone from the airport. He lowered his chin, peered at me over his glasses, and asked how I was going to drive to the airport. I told him I would drive to Martinsville, pick up 67 and go up to the west side of the city. With all of the importance of imparting wisdom about how to phrase the Pavane, he said, "Watch your speed on 67. The cops on that road drive Dodge Chargers." And without further comment, we went on to the horn lesson.

Great man, great musician, great teacher. He will be missed.

Tom Wheeler - July 16, 2020 at 11:26 AM

GR

“ I was lucky enough to study with Mr. Hatfield at I.U. and was his graduate assistant there from 1991-94. I first met him at the Aspen Music Festival in 1983. During that summer, he took me under his wing and showed a genuine interest in me. Little did I know back then what a profound influence he would have on me in later years. He was like a second father to me at I.U., and often took extra time to help me when I was auditioning for various music festivals and orchestras. I will never forget his soft-spoken kindness towards me and his unwavering encouragement. He even gave me a key to his office while I was his graduate assistant so that I could use it anytime to practice or teach lessons! Mr. Hatfield was as selfless as they come. And I will never forget all of the lessons, both musically and in life, that he taught me. God bless you, Mr. Hatfield. And rest in peace. Sincerely, Gustav John Rieckhoff III

Gustav Rieckhoff - July 12, 2020 at 11:50 PM

HU

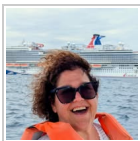
“ *Celicia and I were greatly saddened in hearing the news of Mike’s death. Our thoughts were also immediately turned to you, his very wonderful and faithful wife. He fought a long battle to stay alive as we would know he would. He was the most positive person with a caring for everyone he came in contact with. With some it was his educating. With others it was caring. With all it was a life of concern and love. Mike was just at the top of my favorite colleague list during the many years we worked together at the Jacobs School of Music. His enthusiastic greeting as we would meet in the hallway; that encouragement we felt in his leadership role; and that care for students influenced all in making the school a great school we believe in. Then we saw you both caring for the people of Shalom Community Center.*

Mike has left an indelible mark with his life and will be remembered. We hope all good for you and fond memories you will eventually come to. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

In friendship and love,

Celicia and Henry Upper

Henry and Celicia Upper - July 12, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ *To the family of Michael Hatfield: I studied at IU School of Music during his first years there. What an amazing person he was, in every aspect of life. I will always remember wanting to emulate his integrity and genuineness. I also remember how he would be able to tell you where an excerpt was visually on the music page without looking. Sorry for your loss.*

Ann Freeman - July 12, 2020 at 02:11 PM

DP

“ From my days at the IUSM I remember Mike as a sympathetic and friendly colleague with whom I am proud to have worked and associated. He was not a "prima donna", but got on with the job without fuss, whether playing, teaching -- or sitting on committees with the rest of us at 8am. I send my condolences to Lenore and Andrea and his other family members and friends. I shall always cherish my memories of Michael.

David Pickett

David Pickett - July 11, 2020 at 12:51 PM

CW

“ I heard of Mike's death earlier this week. I was fortunate to be a horn student of his at CCM from 1972-1974 and had the pleasure of playing 3rd horn to him for one summer season with the Cincinnati Symphony Opera in 1973.

What a positive and long lasting affect Mike has had on me. My teaching and orchestral playing career would not have been possible were it not for what he taught me...musically and about being a supportive, positive colleague.

What a truly humble and gentle man he was...always giving of himself and his time. He never focused on himself but on the person who called or stopped by to visit.

My prayers and those of my wife Joyce go out to Mike's family for your loss. May God receive Mike Hatfield into His presence. Rest In Peace, Mike, free from pain and struggle.

Chuck Waddell - July 10, 2020 at 11:09 AM



“ I learned of Mr. Hatfield's passing last night and I am filled with sorrow. He was my teacher during my Masters studies at Indiana University from 1997 - 1999. He had such an impact on me as a musician and as a teacher and I still hear his voice in my teachings today. He was kind and caring and always had time for me even when it was inconvenient for him. My condolences to his family and to the horn playing world for the loss of this great man.

- Brent Pennington

Brent Pennington - July 09, 2020 at 01:31 PM

JB

“ Mike was my teacher for three years in Cincinnati, and his considerable musicality was exceeded only by his humility and kindness. A true Mensch, a great mentor, and a beautiful player: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_xSaozOQWw
In gratitude for his gifts,
John Birge

John Birge - July 09, 2020 at 11:16 AM

CB

“ I'm saddened by the loss of a great man, Michael Hatfield. He was my horn teacher and mentor at IU Bloomington IN from 1994-5. I joined the USAF Band of Liberty a year later and spent 6 years performing throughout NY and New England. Without the kind and patient instruction of Mr. Hatfield, I would not have been able to perform professionally and for that I am so grateful! He took us horn students that year to visit the widow of Phillip Farkas. That will stick with me forever. I will miss Mr. Hatfield and will always remember him with much respect and admiration.

Claude Borders - July 08, 2020 at 07:44 PM

CT

“ To Michael's family: I am so very sorry for your loss. I studied horn with Michael as an MM student and AI at IU in 1987-89. This was during the time he still played horn in the Cincinnati Symphony and was a full time professor. The energy he had was tremendous! He was gentle, humble, good-hearted and encouraging, and modeled how to be a good person for all the students he came into contact with. He had all the horn etudes memorized, which I found amazing! I'm sure he is in heaven now. God bless you all.

-- Claire McHugh Tafoya

Claire Tafoya - July 08, 2020 at 09:41 AM

TD

“ I just learned of this dear man's death. I was a student of Mr. Hatfield at CCM from 1987-1991. I can name 4 or 5 people who have been foundational to my life. Michael Hatfield was one of them. Because of his teaching I became a professional horn player in the US Air Force. I later became an Episcopal priest, in part because of what I learned from him as a human being. He will be missed. You have my deepest sympathies, and please know that your family will be in my prayers. May he Rest In Peace and rise in glory.

Todd Dill

Todd Dill - July 07, 2020 at 07:37 PM