



Thomas Baldner

July 23, 1928 - December 27, 2015

Thomas Baldner at age 87 died in his home in Bloomington surrounded by his family. He was born in Berlin, Germany to Max and Charlotte Baldner.

He was an instrumental conductor and professor of Instrumental Conducting at IU's Jacobs School of Music for more than 30 years, founded the Greenwich Philharmonia in Connecticut, was artistic director of the Rheinisches Kammerorchester in Cologne, Germany as well as conducting orchestras in Europe, Israel, South America, Iceland and Iran, including the Berlin and London Philharmonics. He was an esteemed faculty member and master teacher to hundreds of students who now occupy major positions as conductors, musical directors and professors.

His death was preceded by his first wife Gabriella Baldner-Fischer, his son Christopher Baldner and his brother Lutz Baldner. He is survived by his wife, Bettina Baldner and his children Oliver Baldner and Karen Baldner, and his sisters Monika Geiseler and Angelika Frenzel. He will be greatly missed by students, colleagues, friends and by his family.

A memorial celebration is planned for the near future. In lieu of

flowers, donations may be made to IU Health Hospice, or in memory of Thomas Baldner for the benefit of conducting students of the IU Jacobs School of Music. For the latter send memorial gifts to the IU Jacobs School of Music, c/o IU Foundation, P.O. Box 6460, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6460; address checks to: IUF and identify Thomas Baldner Memorial Fund.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ I know late maestro when he was conducting NIRT Chamber Orchestra in Tehran many years ago.
An energetic, cheerful and brave conductor as well as a sincere friend.
My condolences to Mrs Baldner and to his daughter Karen.
Rest in piece great man.

Mohammad Bayat - August 16, 2025 at 01:26 AM

SH

“ Many respects to Thomas Baldner whom we had the privilege to have as the conductor of Tehran Symphony Orchestra in 1970's.
Rest in Peace.

Shahriar Heydari

Shahriar Heydari - August 03, 2019 at 04:08 AM

GE

TB. I played viola in his orchestras. Memories of IU. I remember him saying geetar in rehearsal of Wozzeck. "Good afternoon everybody." I saw his private studio posts at the music building a number of years ago. I was desperate then, but today I would call him. My last orchestral experience with him at IU, Beethoven 5, was surely moving. I knew it was the end of the viola for me.

George - February 27, 2025 at 07:17 PM

VB

“ We were honored at Beth Shalom by a talk given by Thomas Baldner describing growing up in Berlin under the nazis as a Jew, just a few months before his death. His energy and focus were amazing and we learned about kindnesses from policemen and people you would never expect to help a little Jewish boy in addition to the family's tragedies. I treasure my few, but very warm, interactions with this thoughtful and brilliant man. What a loss!

Victoria Hilkevitch Bedford - May 21, 2016 at 08:24 PM

CL

“ My sincere sympathy to Karen Baldner and family on the death of her father. You are in my loving thoughts.

Clarke Miller - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM