



Harriet Weymouth Cavalli

June 21, 1938 - November 14, 2020

On Saturday, November 14, 2020, Harriet Cavalli, cherished mother to Celia and Beth Cavalli, dear grandmother to Nina Cavalli, passed away peacefully at the age of 82. In addition to her two daughters and granddaughter, Harriet is survived by her brothers Clark Weymouth Jr. and Theodore Weymouth, and nieces and nephews.

Harriet Cavalli was an internationally renowned pianist, trailblazing the art of dance accompaniment. She had major impact on the way accompanists can contribute to dance, inspiring teachers and dancers to new levels of artistic knowledge and expression. She wrote the book, "Dance and Music (A Guide to Dance Accompaniment for Musicians and Dance Teachers)," first published in Europe, and published in the US by University Press of Florida in 2001. Her 40-year career spanned North America and Europe, and any dancer who had the good fortune to dance to her playing will never forget her. The dance world is a better place for Harriet's having been there.

Harriet was passionately committed to ecology and wildlife and loved to get out into the wilderness and to the ocean. She was strongly committed to and an advocate for racial justice. She was devoted to her friends, her family, and her cats, Maudi, MeiMei, Zorro and Murdo to mention a few. She had strong opinions and made funny faces. She was natural, preferred to be barefoot, not going for glamour in her appearance or lifestyle, although she did trot out the Revlon Fire and Ice matte lipstick for special occasions. She loved to entertain her friends in that same earthy way - around the table with plenty of wine, some popcorn or steamed mussels.

As per Harriet's wishes, there will be no funeral service. Condolences can be sent to Celia and Beth Cavalli, 6617 NW Grandview Ave. Corvallis OR 97330. For those inclined, she would love donations made in her name to Ocean Park Food Bank, 1601 Bay Avenue, Ocean Park, WA 98640, (360) 665-6567.

Comments



“ I'm a ballet pianist in south of Spain, working on my Phd on Piano for Dance. Though I never had the chance to meet her, I'm shocked by the news of her death which I just found out about while reading her incredible book, Dance and Music, A Guide to Dance Accompaniment for Musicians and Dance Teachers. Thank you Harriet for such an amazing book, a great master piece you wrote to help us all in our daily work. Every word in this book has a special sense of generosity, love and passion for what you did, thanks you very very much. My sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Paz Sabater,
Ballet and Contemporary Dance Musician.
Conservatorio Profesional de Danza Reina Sofia, Granada, Spain.



Paz Sabater - January 21 at 06:59 PM



“ Sending my sincere condolences to Harriet's family.
Her music, the sensitivity with which she played, the artistry of her phrasing, was like she was dancing right right there at the barre , and on the center floor! I first met her at Port Townsend , Washington, when she played for classes by Perry Brunson, it was a total joy to see him teach, and to hear her amazing music! I have several of her CD's/ and records .I use one that she recorded with Roni Mahler, often.
She was and still is the most marvelous ballet accompanist ever!
I always looked forward to attending the workshops , especially knowing she would be on staff.
She has inspired many dancers and teachers with her gift, of knowing just exactly what to play, and how to phrase it for each individual student or teacher!

Jeanne Maddox Peterson
Maddox Dance Studio
Little Ballet Theatre, Inc
389 South Main Avenue
P O Box 400
Warrenton, Oregon 97146

Jeanne Peterson - November 27, 2020 at 12:58 PM



“ Harriet was so generous and good to me when I arrived in Seattle to study with Perry Brunson and Ray Bussey. Fairly broke and barely making ends meet she took me into her home with her two lovely and fun loving daughters Celia and Beth. She took an interest in my ambition to dance and I would listen in awe about her career in the dance world. Once I got kicked out of Perry's class for a week for not paying attention. I thought it was the end of the world so she played an entire ballet barre for me in her living room each day so I could stay in shape. As I write this I am listening to Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto which always reminds of ballet class with her brilliant accompaniment. Those who knew her as a friend or took class with her knew they were in the presence of a very special talent whose niche in dance was extraordinary. Thank you Harriet for what you have given us.

Ray Sexton

Raymond Sexton - November 19, 2020 at 04:59 PM



“ I met Harriet several years ago when she joined the Corvallis Community Choir. She sat next to me in the tenor section. We shared laughs and gripes and stories. She helped me stay on key while singing and I helped her laugh more often. Sometimes I got to hear stories of her most interesting life, full of travels and wonderful performers. In the summer she would come by my house to get some produce from our garden. Sometimes in her later life I got to visit her at her home; again, we laughed and gripes together. It was my pleasure also to get to know her wonderful daughter Celia.

I miss her and am grateful that she is at peace.

Marjorie Ratliff

Marjorie Ratliff - November 18, 2020 at 07:35 PM