



Penny Marie Dalenta

July 5, 1944 - June 25, 2020

Penny Marie Dalenta, 75, died peacefully at her home in Wethersfield on Thursday, June 25, 2020 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Her family and best friend were by her side.

Penny was born on July 5, 1944, in Middletown, Connecticut. She graduated from the University of Southern Maine in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education. Penny then completed a Masters degree in Musical Theater and Piano Accompaniment at New York University, a proud accomplishment that influenced her esteemed musical career. Penny worked as a teacher, choral director and pianist at Apponequet Regional High School in Lakeville, Massachusetts. She then shared her talents instructing music at Manchester High School, Illing Middle School, and the University of Connecticut. Penny's genuine and youthful spirit cultivated many special connections with students and colleagues. She retired in 2011 after inspiring over four decades of children and young adults to love and embrace their inner virtuoso.

Penny was a highly skilled concert pianist and directed over thirty-five musicals throughout her career, bringing her love for piano and performance to thousands of audience members over many years. She anchored countless pit orchestras with verve and passion. Penny was extraordinarily talented, yet humble and unpretentious in her expertise. She was witty and approachable, funny and compassionate. Her salty humor often contrasted with her sensitivity and kindness toward others. Above all, Penny's light shined brightest when her fingers were eloquently gliding over the 88 black and ivory keys.

Affectionately known as "Penel" to much of her family, Penny is survived by her mother, Harriette "Roberta" Dalenta of Wethersfield; siblings, Edward Dalenta and Donna (Jeffrey) Vose; nieces and nephews, Aimee Dalenta (John Weidersheim), Jennifer (Eric) Miller, Ashlee (Andrew) Stone, Elisabeth (Justin) Herdic, and Scott (Gracelyn) Vose]; nine cherished great nieces and nephews; her best friend, Dee Moretto and Dee's children, Michael and Mary. She is preceded in death by her father, Edward Dalenta of Wethersfield.

Funeral services will be private. A service of remembrance will be held in the fall of 2020 as circumstances permit. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Susan G. Komen

organization or the Little Theater of Manchester at Cheney Hall.

Cemetery

Rose Hill Memorial Park

580 Elm Street

Rocky Hill, CT, 06067

Comments



“ To friends and family, I am so sorry to hear of Penny's passing. I worked alongside Penny for many years, as a band director at Illing and MHS. We also performed together at weddings, funerals, and in many pit orchestras, as well. She truly cared about her students, and her musical expertise and timing was amazing. She was a true human being, as well as being extraordinarily talented. I called her a week before she passed, and we just picked up where we left off years ago - giggling and sharing stories and memories of all the things we used to do together. We will always remember her warm smile. God gained a musical angel.

Bridget Gilchrist - July 20, 2020 at 11:16 AM



“ What a beautiful tribute
You too are a very talented musician Penny always held you in high regard
Thank you for your kind words
Dee Moretto

Dee Moretto - August 29, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ To the family of Penny Dalenta: I am so sad to have read in the Courant about Penny's passing. She was a very special friend. Together with Lois, Dee, Teri and Sue S. they put together for my 60th birthday a travelogue in English and French which was hysterical. Penny and Dee also presented me with French motif dishware when they visited me and my husband at our condo in Vermont. Although I have not seen Penny in many years, I feel very much attached to her and will remember her dearly forever.

Edie Hathorn - July 11, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ Edie so kind of you to remember our wonderful adventures together
Penny often referred to you as a master linguist and loved our times together
Dee

Dee Moretto - August 29, 2020 at 09:31 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to you on the loss of a truly special woman.



Karen Krinjak - July 06, 2020 at 10:26 AM



“ Dearest Pen,
A wonderful cousin, a caring loving person with a wicked sense of humor and a contagious deep laugh. A gifted musician and an inspiring teacher you influenced so many.
But, most I remember all of the wonderful family times and sharing, especially at Cedar Island. Rest in peace dear cuz, may myriad angels sing thee to thy rest!
Cathy Murray Ferry

Cathy Murray Ferry - July 05, 2020 at 03:07 PM



“ Thinking of all the good times we had on Cedar Island in Clinton! So many memories. We know you are finally at peace after a long courageous battle. Your Cousin Bob and Sue.

Bob and Sue Griswold - July 05, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ Hey, Penny! The music teachers of Manchester Public Schools is and was quite a group of sisters and brothers. We were fortunate to be given the freedom to teach in our own unique ways. You always make the kids feel good and sound good, and showed love for them every single day. You will never be forgotten.

Linda Hilliard - July 03, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ Always pushing her students to work harder. A true leader.

Brenda (Ross) Priest - July 02, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ Annie Olivo-Champagne lit a candle in memory of Penny Marie Dalenta



Annie Olivo-Champagne - July 01, 2020 at 01:44 PM



“ I wouldn't know where to begin to share memories of Penny. I think the mark of a life well-lived is the lives a person leaves and imprint upon. Over thirty years after high school, when friends gather, our memories and laughter always lead us back to stories of Penny Dalenta. From Round Table Singer to musicals, concerts to trips to Mister Donut, Penny was more than a teacher. She cared deeply about music, and even more profoundly about her students. She taught us about harmony and theory in more ways than one applies to sheet music. She played a role in forging life-long friendships rooted in memories she helped create. Penny was also my son's teacher at Illing Middle School. I will never forget when I walked through the classroom door for Open House. Her reaction was priceless, and pure Penny. It was a reunion I always cherished, and I will always recall that moment with laughter and affection. I hope that Penny's family and closest friends will take comfort knowing that she lives on in so many of the hearts and lives she touched through both music and the simple gift of kindness and friendship. Thank you for sharing her with all of us. I recall a song we often sang in Round Table—Fly Like and Eagle, Penny.

Nancy Healy - July 01, 2020 at 12:32 PM



“ Penny was such an amazing person. She was a great teacher who made me enjoy school, I always looked forward to her class. I am at a loss for words. Thank you Penny for your kindness.

Penny Fongemie - July 01, 2020 at 12:15 PM



“ I worked with Penny for many years at Illing. She was my daughter Allison's vocal teacher. For a couple of years I had the pleasure of working in the class room across the hall from her class room and would happily listen to her play the piano. It was a relaxing way to start our day.

Linda Kostek

Linda Kostek - July 01, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ Thanks Penny for sharing your talents and inspiring students to get involved in the arts. It is teachers or lifelong educators like yourself who brought the best out in so many kids and allowed them to experience music as art, exploring their passion, and bringing their gift to the stage. Your personality encouraged students to strive to be their best and your compassion allowed them to feel safe when the rehearsal/performance didn't go as planned. Students always knew you would be there to help and use each day as another to build upon. Thank you for all that you did to encourage us and I'm sure God held a special place for you in his home with a piano and friends to perform with.

Jeff Holmes - July 01, 2020 at 11:48 AM



“ Penny's Manchester music department colleagues are saddened by this news, but grateful for the time that we spent teaching alongside Penny. Even after retirement, we enjoyed many concert visits from Penny who always supported our work with young musicians. Condolences to all of Penny's family and close friends.

Keith Berry, Manchester Music Department coordinator

Keith Berry - July 01, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ Ms Dalenta was such a wonderful teacher. She was kind funny and extremely talented. She enhanced my love of learning about music and taught me to sing with a smile. I will miss her.

Cherita Gay(Smith) - July 01, 2020 at 10:36 AM