



Charles Russo

JUL 1, 1926 - NOV 24, 2012



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****T**here will be a memorial celebration for Charles held at Riverside Church in Manhattan on Sunday March 10th, 2013 from 2p-6p. It will begin with a brief prayer service and stories, followed by food, drinks and we hope some great music that he would truly appreciate!! Anyone interested in attending please rsvp by February 28th to ken.russo@ctrsystems.com.

Russo, Charles "Charlie", 86, of Leonia, NJ passed on November 24, 2012. Charlie is survived by his 3 loving children Amy, Ken and Angela. Cherished brother to Laura. Charlie enjoyed a great life of music with many talented artists and family friends including the late Charles McCracken, Ted Weiss, and Jim Buffington and survived by Joe Soldo, Dave Carey and his good longtime friend, army buddy and accomplished performer Tony Bennett.

Charlie was world renowned for his unique sound and clarinet artistry, most notably with his tenure at the New York City Opera. He was a New York City artist in the truest sense of the word.

Services will be held in New York City in early 2013. Please check back here for updates on the service date, time and place.

**Please leave your name and contact email if you would like to be contacted by the family for further information"



Tribute Wall

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Michelle Coletta Kissane posted:

Charlie - I just learned from a friend that you have passed over...I didn't realize it had been over a year since we had last spoken. Thank you for being the Grandpa I always needed. Thank you for your brutal honesty when I sounded bad and your smiles when I made music. Thank you for teaching me and getting me that awesome scholarship at Hartt for 7 years...you were the reason my family was able to afford sending me to college for music, and my sister Christine as well. Thank you for helping me audition and play with you at the Waterloo Music Festival, the Festival at Sandpoint Idaho, and your very own Le Mont chamber festival, and introducing me to the professional world and wonderful musicians. Thank you for being the most precious musical mentor I ever had, the long conversations, the stories. It was not about playing the clarinet - it was about making music. You were honest, you could walk the talk, and you would 'walk the plank' for your students when something went down that wasn't right. You were an amazing mentor and ever since I graduated Hartt in 1996 you stayed in touch with me, and I always knew you were there for me in a special way, like a Dad that listens and gives advice. I am happy to see that you had this special relationship with so many that have written here as well - this shows your dedication and love for people. You were unique. You are greatly missed. Thank you Charlie Russo. Funny memory: at Sandpoint Music Festival, we saw Charlie take a french fry off a strangers tray in line at the cafeteria...when he sat down with us and we all smiled and told him what we saw, he just shrugged and said, 'that's the French Fry rule. You've never heard of the French Fry rule?' I'm sure many friends/family here have similar stories of you...how did you get away with that? :) You had a unique charm that I believe was charismatic and made people around you feel special and a part of something grand. You were 'old school' in the best way possible, and made me feel a connection to other great artists of the past, many that you were friends with. You subbed for Benny Goodman. You studied Three Pieces with Stravinsky. I saw you perform Jitterbug Waltz with BB King. You had the most gorgeous warm tone on the clarinet that I've ever heard. You lived a full life, and left your mark on many people's hearts. Thank you Charlie. Hugs and Prayers to your family.

February 20 at 12:44 PM



Anonymous posted:

Charlie was my clarinet professor at the Hartt School in 1981. I only wish I'd had him sooner! He later watched my son grow up when I brought him to Hartt for cello lessons, then at MSM. I'll always remember him straightening Ben's tie during intermission and telling orchestra/conductor stories. He was so sweet!##imported-begin##Karin Larsen##imported-end##

January 20 at 8:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

I was saddened to hear of Charlie's passing and have fond memories of him. Please let me know when a memorial service will be scheduled. My sympathy to his family, especially Ken, an old colleague and friend at Carnegie-Mellon University.##imported-begin##Lisa Kozenko##imported-end##

January 3 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Charlie was my chamber music coach at The Hartt School about fifteen years ago. He expected a lot and could be tough during the class, but he always gave us a smile and encouragement at the end. I learned a great deal and am grateful to have had the chance to learn from such a wonderful artist.##imported-begin##Leigh Stuart##imported-end##

January 1 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

As a bassoon player, the few times I worked with Charlie was always a rare pleasure, both musically & personally. The music world has lost an outstanding musician & great guy.##imported-begin##Marvin Roth##imported-end##

December 31 at 8:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

I met Charles last year at a poetry reading I participated in. Afterwards, he came up, complimented me, and asked for a copy of my poem. Said he wanted to "branch out" in his interests and thought poetry might be a field he would enjoy. He wanted to become more proficient at "understanding it better." I asked him what his "field" was. He said, "The clarinet." Little did I know. We chatted. As I handed him the copy of the poem he said, with a twinkle, "I hope this comes with dinner." It did. Charles and I had quite a few dinners. I enjoyed his company immeasurably. His wonderful wit, his deep passion for music and also political issues and views that we both, thankfully, shared. He gave me a few CDs of his music. I had never understood what a clarinet could do until I listened to his work. He would sometimes say, in relation to how some people were taught or how they played, "They wouldn't know a phrase if" And then he would demonstrate how a phrase should sound. Well, his phrases were as magical as talent and dedication and heart could make. I was also moved by the stories he told of his early growing up in PA, his family and teachers whom he admired so much. His mother who understood when he skipped school to go to "the city" to hear a specific musician. On and on. I will miss my dinners with Mr. Russo. Charlie. My thoughts of him are still fresh. I wish I could have known him much earlier in life. I hope that someone will let me know about future events/services for Mr. Russo. I truly admired him and will miss him. Shirl###imported-begin##Shirley McPhillips###imported-end##

December 29 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I left a message earlier today but want to add that I'd like to be contacted with future notices of events held in Charlie's memory. Thanks so much. Shirl###imported-begin##Shirley McPhillips###imported-end##

December 29 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I am deeply sorry to read of Charlie's passing. I shared many performances with him with the NY Chamber Soloists, as well as at the Bennington Composers' Conference. I still have vivid memories of his sharing jam sessions with the jazz pianist-composer, Hall Overton, and others well into the night at Bennington College. Charlie's personal generosity, sense of humor, as well as his wonderful playing and artistry will be very much missed. Joel Krosnick Juilliard String Quartet###imported-begin##joel krosnick###imported-end##

December 27 at 8:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

My condolences to Chucks Family. I never meet Chuck in person although I talked to him on the phone several times about the Russo family history, we also talked about his childhood, his time in the army, and his music. I wish that I could have heard him play##imported-begin##Randy Werner##imported-end##

December 22 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I never meet Chuck in person although I talk with him several times on the phone about the family history. I found him to be very nice, we talked for quite a while about the history of the family. We spent a little time talking about his childhood, his time in the army and his music. I wish that I could have heard him Play. ##imported-begin##Randy Werner##imported-end##

December 22 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

My very sincere condolences are offered in your hour of loss. Charlie was a true friend and is deeply missed. My blessings are with you.##imported-begin##David A. Wasserman, M.D.##imported-end##

December 17 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

please let me know date of service for charles russo---thanx##imported-begin##steve slagle##imported-end##

December 12 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

With deepest condolences. Charlie called me from the hospital just a couple of days before he passed. I miss him greatly, he was an important person in my life. I hope to speak with the family when appropriate.##imported-begin##John Richmond##imported-end##

December 12 at 8:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Words are inadequate to express the sadness of the sudden loss of Charles Russo. He was a great mentor and friend, knew him since my MSM days in the late 70's. We talked regularly, attended many concerts, spent a lot of time together. He taught me so much about the art of playing and hearing music, and everything else. RIP Charlie.##imported-begin##John Richmond##imported-end##

December 12 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Charlie was an amazing teacher and friend. I am so grateful for the wonderful conversations with him over the years and will sorely miss them. He was one of the few who I could share all aspects of music teaching with and know he would not only understand a situation, but shed light on it. I truly enjoyed his sense of humor. I remember one time when I arrived for a lesson in college and he had a fist full of pencils that he "stole" from all of his students that day. With pride and a mischievous smile, he told me who each pencil belonged to...and then he took mine for his collection! His lessons were a mixture of humor and brilliance. He was the biggest influence in my teaching career and I will forever be grateful. More recently, he asked me to help him find concert information of the performances he had done over the years. After researching, I found over 100 entries in the NY Times of his playing. Amazing! Charlie will be missed.##imported-begin##Jane Mills##imported-end##

November 29 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Charles Russo was an amazing clarinetist, music teacher and human being who forever changed my life. He would stand down the hall and make me play to him because it didn't matter what you sounded like up close, but it mattered what you sounded like to an audience. He would also have me wave my fingers around the tone holes so I learned how to gently place them and never make that popping sound. Playing smoothly, creating a silken sound, making the clarinet sound as if it were ethereal, that's what Charles Russo taught and that's how he played. He inspired thousands of others to play beautifully as well. I will always thank him for his patience with me, that insecure, clueless 7th grader I was when I first studied with him, up through college. He didn't just give me the gift of love and understanding for music and clarinet playing, but inspired me to become a music teacher as well. He will live on through all of his students who will pass his great gifts on to others forever.##imported-begin##Judy Hecht Gutlerner##imported-end##

November 29 at 8:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Charlie was an long time colleague and it was with great sadness I learned of his passing. He will be missed.##imported-begin##James Biddlecome##imported-end##

November 27 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

To say Charles Russo had a profound impact on my life is an understatement. He was an extraordinary teacher and mentor. My condolences to his family.Phil Ponella##imported-begin##Philip Ponella##imported-end##

November 26 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Amy, Ken, and Angie,Words cannot express my sadness at the news of Charlie's passing. Many wonderful memories I have of him and of all of you. He was one of the greatest teachers and musicians the world will ever know. My love to you all.##imported-begin##Michele Miller Nelson##imported-end##

November 26 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I was so deeply saddened to hear about Charlie's passing. He and my dad, Dave Carey were close friends for more than 60 years, having met in Pittsburgh before they moved to New York. Charlie moved here first, and encouraged my dad to follow. We came about a year later. In fact, as we had nowhere to go, we moved in with Charlie until we found a place of our own in Brooklyn. They continued to collaborate in recordings and live performances over the years. As my dad said, "There will never be another one like him." Thank you, kind friend.##imported-begin##Norman Carey##imported-end##

November 26 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Amy, Ken and Angela,So many years have passed, but I still remember with tenderness the wonderful growing years with the Russo family.So sorry for your loss!Jo##imported-begin##Josephine Abrams##imported-end##

November 26 at 8:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

We are in deep shock after just learning of Charlie's passing. We had just spoken a few weeks ago in regard to his health. He was a dear friend and colleague for over 40 years and we will miss him so very much. Our deepest sympathies to the family. Please let us know the funeral details. Lisa & Loren Glickman##imported-begin##Loren Glickman##imported-end##

November 25 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Mr. Russo was THE reason I became passionate about the clarinet. Hearing the version of Appalachian Spring that he was upon, with Aaron Copland at the piano, is proof positive that a lifetime of dedication to musical truth leads to something special. He treated me so kindly, as I embarked upon lessons with him utilizing the clarinet, and life as real distinguishing factors in the pursuit of something special. We became very close friends, and I will always cherish the phone conversations from 3000 miles away when I moved away from his expert advice. And, the friendship that continued throughout the endless conversations since! We always got together whenever I was fortunate to head back out there, and he was always ready with a great new joke, or musical discovery. There is no replacing Charlie's impact on all of us, and we all have lost what the world needs so preciousy:an innovator, and a true friend. Much love to you, wherever you go, Mr. Russo. I will miss you very much. Phil##imported-begin##Phil O'Connor##imported-end##

November 25 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I was one of Charlie's clarinet students. He was the most phenomenal clarinet teacher, and as I am a working professional musician, not a day goes by without drawing on his insights into music, clarinet playing, and teaching. Charlie played some of the most exquisite and moving clarinet performances I have ever heard, and was able to communicate the most difficult and esoteric aspects of clarinet technique. -Chris French##imported-begin##Chris French##imported-end##

November 25 at 8:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Few people had the impact on a young man's life as Charlie had on mine. As my clarinet teacher at Hartt and Manhattan I cherished the years spent under his direction. His guidance influenced my life greatly and I am a better clarinetist, musician and man having learned from him. My condolences to his entire family. RIP Mr. Russo##imported-begin##jim foschia##imported-end##

November 25 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Shortly after I took up flute in 6th grade, and spent a few practices with Mr. Echo & his band students and reeeeeeeally squeaky clarinet students, I was over at the Russo's and Amy was showing me the latest Beatle album her parents got for her I was so envious! anyway I heard 'Uncle Charlie' playing somewhere in the house, and it was sooooo beautiful! A sound that gorgeous is rarely heard on clarinet.... a real gift which Charlie shared with the world for decades. Thank you! And ohhhhh when the McCrackens/Russos had a party, or when the Julliard-buddies stayed up till ? playing poker, or when the kids got together for hide&seek guys... you LEFT me there! You never found me! or when they played jazz w/Hall O. @ Brayton St on New Years Eve.... oh my!! So many wonderful memories. Thank you Charlie. Love & prayers to Amy, Kenny, Angie, Morgan & Ann.##imported-begin##Nancy McCracken##imported-end##

November 25 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

My childhood and young adulthood was blessed with the presence of so many incredible musicians and wonderful, interesting and loving people in my parents' community. Your father was like an uncle, like family, always warm and interested. So many memories of him; and you and your family, in that great circle of musician friends. With each one that passes I feel such a loss of that world. I am glad I got to see him recently at a memorial service for Abba Bogin. My condolences, and good memories . Remember sledding on the golf course across from your home, when we were young, and coming in for hot chocolate and warmth? Remember parties at McCrackens and Buffington homes. ? Hope to see you at the memorial service. Julie Buffington##imported-begin##Julie Buffington##imported-end##

November 25 at 8:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Mr. Russo and his family were fixtures at our house in Englewood while I was growing up. I will remember his quick wit and appreciation of large get-togethers around a table filled with food. My sympathies to the family for their loss.##imported-begin##Charles McCracken##imported-end##

November 25 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I will never forget all the wonderful stories my father told us that revolved around his musical world. He was so incredibly passionate about his music, and shared this passion with so many others. Dad, we love you and miss you. Rest now.##imported-begin##Amy Russo-Darden##imported-end##

November 25 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

My extraordinary long time colleague and friend Charlie, Rest in Peace. My condolences to his children and family. Leonard and Ruth Hindell##imported-begin##Leonard Hindell##imported-end##

November 25 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.Robert J. Baron and family.##imported-begin##Robert J. Baron##imported-end##

November 25 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Our deepest sympathies,Aunt Ann Scarano & Family##imported-begin##Ann Scarano##imported-end##

November 24 at 8:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Our thoughts are with you.- The Litterini family.##imported-begin##Matthew Litterini##imported-end##

November 24 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Charles by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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