



Charles C. Aschbrenner

November 19, 1936 - September 18, 2016

Charles C. Aschbrenner age 79, of Holland, died Sunday, September 18, 2016. Charles, an Adjunct Professor Emeritus of Music, taught for 53 years at Hope College. He has lectured and adjudicated in addition to performing both as soloist and collaborative pianist throughout Michigan and the Midwest as well as in Mexico, Portugal, France and Russia. His piano students have entered graduate programs across the country and into careers in teaching, performance, church music, music theater, and opera direction worldwide. With degrees from the University of Illinois and Yale University, Aschbrenner continued studies with renowned teachers Nadia Boulanger in France and Adele Marcus in New York City. Also licensed Dalcroze Instructor, he has taught eurhythmics at Hope College for thirty years. Extensively trained in the techniques of Taubman, Alexander and Feldenkrais, Aschbrenner has been intensely interested in the issues movement, rhythm, and physical freedom in performance. His innovative presentation "Pulse Patterning for Pianists," (www.pulsepatterning.com) first given nationally at the 1993 MTNA convention in Spokane, has continued to evolve and serves as a basis for article, a website and presentations at regional and international conferences, most recently in Novi Sad, Serbia. Charles studied Oboe with Ray Stills of the Chicago Symphony and was a founding member of the Hour of Power Eagles Club and long-time supporter. He was involved in NMTA-National Music Teachers Association, MMTA-Michigan Music Teachers Association, EPTA-European Piano Teachers Association, Board of Trustees of the Dalcroze Society of

America, Life Member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Life Member of MU Phi Epsilon. Born on November 19, 1936, in Oak Park, IL. Charles was the son of Henry Gustav Aschbrenner and Myrtle Emma Krueger Aschbrenner. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Robert Aschbrenner. Charles is survived by his spouse, Chris T. Spencer, who he married on September 7, 2016, after 39 years of companionship; his sister-in-law, Mary Aschbrenner; nephew and nieces, Roger and Katrina Aschbrenner, Debbie and Brad Stanger, Karen and Ron Johnson; many cousins. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, September 23, 2016 at the Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts on the campus of Hope College, 221 Columbia Ave. Holland. Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, September 22, at the Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th St. Holland. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Charles Aschbrenner Piano Scholarship at Hope College and the Charles Aschbrenner Music Scholarship at the Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation. www.langelandsterenbergh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Charles C. Aschbrenner*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"love always dallas sutton i live with charles at one time god blees"*

dallas sutton - August 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Chris, I am so sorry to hear about this. I didn't know the two of you very well but I always looked forward to seeing you at the restaurant and have thought of you often over the last couple of years. I'm am glad I got to see you both last month. You have a special place on my heart and I will be thinking of you."*

Angela Byers - September 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *"He was the most incredible teacher from whom I ever had the privilege of learning. The most alive person. Always encouraging, honest, and he definitely made me the best pianist I could be. I can imagine that does not even scratch the surface of who he was. My heart goes out to his loved ones, family, and friends."*

Jessica - September 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

FS

“It had been 46 years since I last saw Charles, but recognized him immediately when I walked past the open door of his classroom. That was this January. We talked briefly and remembered the days of Dr. Rider with the Symphonette - what a fun time! I find it hard to believe he's gone.”

Fred Schutmaat - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LG

“I cannot think of Hope College without thinking of Charles Aschbrenner and the enormous, positive influence he had on me during my undergraduate degrees at Hope in piano performance and vocal music education, and subsequently, my life-long career in music. He was an educator, mentor and friend to me. I loved working with him as a student and loved the many ongoing professional visits and conversations we had over the years. I am grateful for the ideas on life, music and teaching we shared and for his contribution to the profession, Pulse Patterning. He will be greatly missed by many who love him dearly. My family and I extend our deepest sympathy to Chris, to all of Charles' family, and to the Hope College Music Department faculty and students. Dr. Lois Veenhoven Guderian University of Wisconsin-Superior Former student and friend”

Lois Veenhoven Guderian - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LG

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Lois Veenhoven Guderian - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DS

“I'm honored to have known Dr. Aschbrenner, and although I didn't study under him when at Hope in the late '70's, I was blessed over the past few years to share my piano compositions with him and receive his gentle and pointed feedback. He was gracious with his time, and his wise counsel will be missed by us all.”

David Soubly - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DT

“Dr. David Tubergen My deepest condolences to Chris Spencer and remaining family members. Charles and I were both "freshmen" at Hope in 1963, faculty and student, respectfully. Not only did I respect his broad knowledge of music, but also treasured our deep friendship which ensued. Missed by all who knew him----a great loss for all. With deep love and affection, David Tubergen”

David Tubergen - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BK

“*"This wonderful man brought gentleness to piano teaching and all his classes. I was a lucky recipient as a piano performance major at Hope."*

Bobbi Vander Ven Kearns - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PD

“*"Charles was a friend to all, a true gentleman, a scholar, and an incredible musician. His kindnesses, diplomacy, his innovative studies, lectures and musings live on in our memories. A good man and a great loss to the piano world."*

Penny Draper - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GP

“*"A beautiful obituary, and yet there is so much more to say -- the generous spirit, the humility, the loyalty, the wonderful sense of humor, the youthfulness and love for teaching, the beautiful music, the leadership, the awards, . . . Thank you, Charles. JOB WELL DONE!"*

Garik Pedersen - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EV

“*"Dear Charlie ... long time friend and colleague. It was a lot of fun spending time with you over the decades, in various venues. We are all on our way out of this life, and will follow you as we amble toward our final cadence. The best we can ask is that we are surrounded by loved ones before we cross over into silence. Brava on a life well lived, with many diverse episodes and expositions. A true fugue of Bachian dimensions."*

Eric Van De Vort - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM