



## Evelyn J. Rietberg

June 25, 1932 - August 6, 2016

Evelyn June Rietberg (Huizenga) Evelyn Rietberg was reunited with her loved ones in the presence of God on August 6th following a lengthy, grace-filled struggle with cancer. As she was quick to note, she was proud to be "a Zeeland farm girl," one of seven children born to William and Alice Huizenga. She attended Zeeland and Holland Christian Schools and studied voice in high school with Norma Baughman of Hope College, developing a talent and passion that remained a constant throughout her life. She continued her vocal studies with James De Jonge at Calvin College, graduating in 1954 with an A.B. in vocal music education. At Calvin, she was active with the A Capella Choir, Band, Forensic Board, Musicians Guild, Oratorio, Yearbook, and Thespian Players; she took first place in the Peace Oratorical Contest and was on the Homecoming Court. After graduation, she taught music in the Christian schools in Passaic and Midland Park, New Jersey, studied voice with Eleanor McClellan in New York, and sang in the Montclair Choral Society. In 1955 she returned to Holland to teach in the Holland Christian Elementary Schools. She found her calling working with young children at Cherry Lane Nursery School and continued her 18-year career teaching preschool with Holland Christian Schools. She had a gift for celebrating the best in each child she taught and guided generations of children to see God in the world and to appreciate the beauty of words and music.

Evelyn married Roger Rietberg in 1955 and had four children – Jon, Tommy, Robbi, and Amy. Tommy was in third grade at South Side Christian School

when he died following surgery for a brain tumor in 1968. Her devotion to her children near and far away was her central focus always. Her 60-year marriage with Roger was founded on their deep love for each other and their shared passion for music. While Roger served as Minister of Music at Third Reformed Church in Holland, Evelyn sang in the Sanctuary Choir and directed the Junior Choristers and the St. Nicholas and Genevan Bell Ringers. She sang the role of the mother in Menotti's "Amahl, and the Night Visitors" twice and was a recognizable voice heard by many at church services, weddings, and funerals throughout the years. She remained involved with music long into her retirement, singing and soloing with the Evergreen Commons Chorale and directing the Evergreen Commons Bell Choir. She also gave generously of her time and energy to many church and community organizations, including Reformed Church Women, Guild, Circle, Wedgewood Acres, and Century Club. In addition to music, Evelyn loved spending time in her garden and spending time with her children, grandchildren (Becky Johnson Dykema and Katie Rietberg; Ryley, Sarah Kate, and Pieter Hartt; Maddie and Taylor Van Allsburg), and great grandchildren (Bella and Shane Dykema). She demonstrated her deep faith in God and her selfless devotion to others in all of her actions, leaving a lasting imprint on her family, church, and community. Friends are invited to meet with the family on Thursday evening from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Third Reformed Church (111 West 13th Street, Holland). The memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday (also at Third) with a luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Memorial gifts may be given to Wedgewood Christian Services' Children's Hope Fund and Hospice of Holland. The family is being served by Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home. [www.langelandsterenbergh.com](http://www.langelandsterenbergh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ Evelyn J. Rietberg

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"First in the Third Reformed Church junior choir and later in bell choir, Evelyn Rietberg exposed me to the mechanics of musical performance: how to work as a group; how to sing/play in time; how to follow direction; how to notice harmonies, etc. She and Roger taught those basics to all their charges for me, more effectively than any piano lessons at the time or any junior/senior high school bands that followed. Whatever I think I know about how to appreciate and play music started with her. Thanks, Mrs. Rietberg."*

Chris deMaagd - August 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Jon, Robbi, Amy, Mr. Rietberg - My thoughts and prayers are with each of you. I will never forget the amazing gifts of teaching and love for music Mrs. Rietberg gave to my life. There was a precious moments figurine that my TRC peers and I gave her at our senior recognition service called, Make a Joyful Noise. She taught me that. I am grateful to have had such a teacher as her. May you all find peace knowing she is with her Lord, and joy in the stories that will resurface during your time of grief."*

Chris - August 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SS

“Our first three children enjoyed preschool with Mrs. Rietberg at Holland Christian Schools. During the year end conference when she would tell parents if their child was ready for Kindergarten, our oldest was given an A-OK. Evelyn asked if we had decided where he would attend Kindergarten. We said that we were undecided. She told us about Tommy, their son that died in third grade after surgery for a brain tumor. She told us many stories about how he was certain of his future with Jesus, sang songs he had learned in school, and recited scripture that encouraged them and held them up when they could not stand. Of course, I cried. I have tears even now remembering it. She was so thankful to God for Tommy's Christian education. When we went home and talked it over, our decision was made. We are so thankful to have known this creative, talented and dedicated woman. God bless you all as you remember and celebrate her life.”

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**Sue Sal** - August 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“Blessings. Many Prayers...”

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**Jack Joliat** - August 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AW

“Amy, Kurt, Maddie, and Taylor: We're so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Love, Mike, Amy, and Cayden Wilson”

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**Amy Wilson** - August 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SW

“Dear friends, know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We are saddened for your loss and also how this loss has and will affect the days, months and years ahead at the most unexpected times and in the most unexpected ways. We are keeping you close in thought during this sad time and wishing you and all family and friends moments of peace. The Wolterinks- Scott, Heather, Anna, Ethan and Jane Wolterink”

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**Scott Wolterink** - August 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MS

“So sorry for this loss.”

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**Marcia and Bill Smith** - August 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM