



## Timothy Scott Oonk

November 10, 1959 - November 10, 2015

Timothy Scott Oonk, 56, of Zeeland, slipped away peacefully Tuesday, November 10, at his home. He leaves behind his two sons, Matthew Oonk, Isaac Oonk, his mother Leola Oonk, brother Tom (Deb) Oonk, a loving extended family, and dear friend Natalie Cole. His father, Jack Oonk, preceded him in death in 2007. Tim was born July 27, 1959, in Zeeland, to Jack and Leola (Van Koevering) Oonk. Tim graduated from Zeeland High School in 1977. He was a remarkably gifted musician and teacher. After obtaining his music education degree from CMU, Tim went on to instruct, accompany, and enrich the West Michigan community for nearly 35 years. As a professional, he was known for his thoughtful, encouraging spirit, endless patience and extraordinary talent. His family takes comfort in the knowledge that Tim's voice will be heard for generations in the performance of those he was privileged to teach. Tim enjoyed the small moments, an interesting conversation, a quiet morning on his front porch, the unhurried pace of the Lutheran liturgy. While his life was not without its challenges, his soul was-and remains-fine, brave, and affectionate. Those who loved him best will long remember him for the boyish twinkle in his eye and a spirit filled with song. Services will be held at 1:00 pm, Saturday, Nov. 14, at Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State Street, Zeeland. Visitation 4-7 pm, Friday, also at the funeral home. Interment Zeeland Cemetery. Memorial contributions to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



# Tribute Wall



“ *Timothy Scott Oonk*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Your work and vision are still remembered on this day."*

**Jim Camenga** - November 10, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *"It's been three years Tim. Mallory and I spent a long car ride recently remembering you and all that you taught her about her voice and her song. We miss being able to contact you for help and direction. I hope you are doing well with the choirs of heaven."*

**Jodi Miller** - December 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"So sorry. He was teacher to our Daughter Nicole & granddaughter Mallory. Sympathy to the family"*

**Marcia Zenk** - November 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *"To the Oonk family, our deepest sympathy. We have known Tim for many years, and he was truly a gifted musician. His teaching and passion for music will always endure."*

**Brad Kraai and family** - November 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TC

“So sorry to read about Tim's passing. I was one of his music professors at CMU, and knew him to be one of our most versatile and talented students. He was always a lively and thoughtful student. We would meet each other at various music conferences and other professional situations. I appreciated the intelligent and gentle man he became. This photo was taken in 2008. Rest in Peace, Tim”

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**Timothy Caldwell** - November 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RT

“I will always remember Tim's service at Haven Reformed Church in Hamilton. He was one of the organists (myself included), and I looked forward to hearing him play. He was so gifted! He will be missed.”

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**Ruth Tidd** - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GH

“*My heartfelt sympathy to Tim's Mother, children, and dear friend, all of whom became familiar to me without personally knowing them, as Tim shared his love for each with his stories and that enchanting twinkle in his eyes. Tim's reputation as a musician, master teacher, artist, and good friend are legion, and long preceded our personal friendship. When several friends and family members became his voice students, I enthusiastically attended his semi-annual concerts, gradually hearing and seeing their gifts grow in skill and stature. Tim always cautioned his audiences that these events were snapshots in time, not to be recorded mechanically, but impressed in our memories and in our hearts forever. I treasure these memories and admire Tim for his gifts to his students-- especially his faith in each of them.*

*This past summer I had the privilege of working with Tim on the True JEM production of "OLIVER!", when I learned first-hand how dedicated he was to giving one's best to every rehearsal, practice, and performance . Tim admonished us at an early rehearsal, "You're not here just to sing the words: you're here to act!"*

*The Tim I knew was gentle, ironic, gifted, funny, hard working, a master teacher, and a a dear friend. I will miss him.*

*Tim's legacy will live on in the success of his students. May he now find peace.*

*Gail Hering"*

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**Gail Hering** - November 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CV

“I was introduced to Tim close to 6 years ago by one of his good friends, who happened to be my choir director in High School (back in the 90s), when I was looking for a voice teacher. When Tim was recommended, I'd heard so many good things about him and his choirs that I was beyond intimidated. Well long story short, even though my confidence was so shaky in the beginning, he built me up to where I started to believe in myself and my abilities. Even though I know he'd taught many people who were better than me, I was never made to feel like anything less. I started looking forward to those lessons the minute I walked out the door from the last one. I didn't look forward to them simply because of what I was gaining in terms of musical knowledge.... it was mostly because I liked talking with him. Sometimes we spent half the lesson just talking. He deeply cared about many people, and I admire him for that more than anything else. "So much of me is made of what I learned from you You'll be with me Like a handprint on my heart And now whatever way our stories end I know you have rewritten mine By being my friend"”

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**Crystal VanAntwerpen** - November 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AF

“I am so sad to read of Tim's passing. He was my piano student as an undergrad at CMU and I have many fond memories of working with him. My thoughts and prayers to his family, friends and loved ones. Patricia Willwerth”

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**A friend** - November 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“I had the pleasure of waiting on Tim while working for many years at Meyer Music. Tim advised me on what books to carry, and was always so much fun to talk with. He will be missed.”

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**Jennifer Serna** - November 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DW

“I met Tim in music school in 1982 and he quickly became one of my few best friends. We locked a lot of chords singing barbershop quartet music, shared a lot of stories, spent a lot of time at "the lot", and saw each other through a lot. Tim was a good listener and a good story teller and I believe that's what made him such a good teacher and friend. My sympathy goes out to his mother, Leola, and his brother, Tom, as they grieve the loss of this kind, talented man.”

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**Dana Wall** - November 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“Tim was a great teacher and vocal coach to my daughter. We will miss him so much! Nothing was better than sitting in his kitchen listening to her sing and hearing him telling her "Yes! That's it! You got it! Wow!" when she hit notes that she never could have before. Thankful for all the blessings and wish he could have been here much longer. So happy for him that he now can sing, walk, enjoy the sunshine and be in perfect health. Better for having known him, and we will miss ALL his music. In Christ alone, Dawn Bouman & Emma”

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**Dawn Bouman** - November 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM