



Marcia Ann Richardson

March 1, 1956 - December 21, 2020

Marcia Ann Richardson

March 1, 1956 - December 21, 2020

Marcia was born in Cincinnati, OH, the first of three children. She began her musical journey early, with piano lessons at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music at the age of three. She was an exceptional student, both in Cincinnati at Mother of Mercy Academy, and then in Scottsdale, AZ, moving with the family in 1968. She won every possible award for academics and citizenship at Kiva Elementary School, while also studying piano at Arizona State University. This continued at Saguaro High School, where she also lettered in Varsity choir (Voices of Saguaro), and accompanied many musicals both in school and in community theater. She was resolute in pursuing her passion of music, and enrolled in the inaugural year of Arizona State University's accompanying undergraduate program. Her love of opera blossomed, as did her performance and coaching skills. She graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music. She returned to her hometown of Cincinnati, and coming full circle, she received a Master of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati. She also did post-graduate work at the Franz Schubert Institute of Musical Studies (Graz, Austria).

Marcie had an extensive musical career as a conductor, pianist, and coach. Among the many stars of the classical and popular musical world, Marcie accompanied fine artists such as the world-renowned violinist Eugene Fodor and international star of stage and screen, Theodore Bikel. She served as staff accompanist at Arizona State University as well as Musical Director of Valley Youth Theater in Phoenix. She worked with the Cincinnati Opera, Opera Omaha, Central City Opera, Arizona Opera, Mississippi Opera, and Pittsburgh Opera, among other organizations, and had performed with St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra, Il Piccolo Teatro dell'Opera and Bel Canto Opera in New York.

While studying for her Master's degree at the University of Cincinnati, she was involved with ECCO, their lyric opera group, which guest performed on the Delta Queen

Steamboat. That experience foreshadowed quite a career shift. She began as a guest solo pianist in 1988, cruising the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, which expanded into a full time performer, including playing the calliope in and out of port. She moved to New Orleans, where the company was headquartered. Her love of history and the Southern U.S. served her well in her expanded role as Riverlorian, and ultimately, Shore Tour Manager. Hurricane Katrina dramatically impacted her life and her career. Just ahead of the storm's landfall, she was assigned to the American Queen and headed up river to dock in Memphis, where she found her new home.

With Opera Memphis, she was engaged in the preparation of main season productions as well as educational outreach. At the University of Memphis she was principal coach/pianist for the Opera Studies Department and coordinator of Music Facilities Scheduling. Marcie served as coach-accompanist for various performing artists since her arrival in Memphis and worked actively in the Catholic Diocese of Memphis and her own parish of St. Mary's. She was devoted to her church and faith, and was very active in the music ministry and served as President of the Women's League and Director of Religious Education. Most recently, she loved her role in developing the PRE program, and sharing the gospel with the parish children, at their own level.

A proud member of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity, she served on its National Executive Board as National Vice President of Extension and President of the Memphis Alumni Chapter.

Marcia is survived by her mother, Edith (Guethlein) Richardson, her sister Amy Lou Blunt, brother, Wade H. Richardson and his wife, Danene, and her niece, Amanda Leigh Blunt (predeceased by her father, Wade H. Richardson).

Comments



“ Connie Clingan lit a candle in memory of Marcia Ann Richardson



Connie Clingan - January 22 at 10:09 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marcia Ann Richardson.



January 21 at 10:58 AM



“ Dena Vaughan lit a candle in memory of Marcia Ann Richardson



Dena Vaughan - January 20 at 08:06 PM



“ Nancy Thielemier lit a candle in memory of Marcia Ann Richardson



Nancy Thielemier - January 20 at 04:37 PM



“ Leslie Odom Miller lit a candle in memory of Marcia Ann Richardson



Leslie Odom Miller - January 18 at 05:10 PM



“ Pat McCraey lit a candle in memory of Marcia Ann Richardson



Pat McCraey - January 16 at 11:20 AM



“ Marcie left a Mark on my soul. She served as a mentor, a support system, a family member, and one of my biggest fans during the graduate studies. Our long talks in her office, our heart to hearts during coachings, and our many jokes and laughs during rehearsals are some of my most cherished memories. I am grateful to her and for her, every day. Thank you, Marcie.

Alex Colaizzi - January 15 at 03:41 PM



“ Ruth Sieber Johnson lit a candle in memory of Marcia Ann Richardson



Ruth Sieber Johnson - January 12 at 06:32 PM



“ As a Sigma Alpha Iota sister, Marcie was always generous with her musical talents. She was also a leader in our fraternity, and served as the National Vice President-Extension for 12 years. We will miss her!

Ruth Sieber Johnson
SAI Executive Director

Ruth Sieber Johnson - January 12 at 06:31 PM



“ Marcie worked with me at the University of Memphis for many years. She was wonderful with the students there, coaching them on Classical Music repertoire and playing for their performances. The last few years she struggled with some health problems, but kept up her busy schedule at the School of Music. My condolences to her family. I will miss her.

Susan Owen-Leinert
Associate Professor of Voice (retired)



Susan Owen-Leinert - January 12 at 11:56 AM



“ Marcie trained me as her relief tour manager on the Delta Queen and then as Shore Tour Manager over the program for the company. She shared all her knowledge with me and we had many long discussions about more than just shore tours. She had a strong faith and would help anyone. It is hard to believe she is gone.

Amy Grove - January 10 at 11:23 PM



“ Like Amy, we really enjoyed our time working for years with Marcie on that Delta Queen we all loved.

Annie - February 01 at 07:02 PM



“ Marcie was a true Steamboater! She evacuated to Memphis with Tom Hook and I after Katrina, so she was there as we suffered through watching our city get destroyed. You never forget the people you go through stuff like that with. RIP sweet friend!

Beth Hook - January 10 at 08:00 PM



“ I was very saddened to hear about Marcy's passing! I worked in the dining room on Mississippi Queen for years! She was always so pleasant and professional. I always enjoyed her posts on FB about things going on in her life and her love for God! Heaven needed an angel! They got a beautiful one! RIP Marcy

Robert Morris - January 10 at 07:52 PM



“ When Becky and I first began Steamboating Marcie was our tour director. We developed a friendship that endured for decades. We shall light a candle for her.

Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord. May her soul and the souls of all faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest In Peace. Amen.



Sam Rhoades - January 10 at 06:21 PM



“ Marcie was a beautiful talented woman who I hired out of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music to be a guest entertainer on the Delta Queen. She ended up becoming a valuable crew member who brought joy and happiness to so many passengers and crew. RIP my fellow steamboater. Steamboaters forever!

tracey smith - January 10 at 06:19 PM



“ We had a lot of times together, you, chef and I, especially in Natchez. I'm so sorry to hear that you've passed. Maybe you welcomed Chef last week into heaven along with all the great steamboaters.

rondi vest - January 10 at 06:03 PM



“ I am so saddened to hear of Marcie's passing. She is a long time friend with whom I shared many adventures on board the Delta Queen, Mississippi Queen, and American Queen over many years. Marcie was an extremely intelligent and talented woman, and she will always be missed by her river family. Marcie, I will always treasure the beautiful crucifix you gave me one Christmas that we had blessed by the priest after Christmas morning mass in Vicksburg. May you rest in peace eternally in the arms of Jesus.

Jazzou Jones - January 10 at 05:29 PM



“ Marcie was the epitome of grace and kindness. And her musical talent knew no bounds! May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

Keith Edward Norrington - January 10 at 07:04 PM



“ I am sorry to hear of Marcie's passing. I don't recall that I ever met her, but I heard so many nice things about her when I became a frequent floater. Jo Ann Schoen

Jo - January 10 at 08:23 PM



“ Marcie and I worked together on the MQ and DQ for a number of years. She was wonderfully talented...always remember her Clair De Lune, and so much else...worked harder than any 3 people, and was a real friend ...

Keith Tinnin - January 11 at 08:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Becky Heard - January 01 at 10:33 AM