



## William Murphy

September 13, 1923 - September 24, 2017

William A. (Bill) Murphy of Lubbock, passed from this life Sunday, September 24 in Lubbock Heart Hospital following a brief illness. Bill was born in Bogalusa, Louisiana September 13, 1923 to James Stanley and Ethel Dunn Murphy. He had a talent and passion for the piano and at age fifteen entered the School of Music at Louisiana State University. Graduating college at eighteen, he was drafted into the army, and those dreams were put on hold as he served in World War II as an army scout. He was stationed in Belgium and fought during The Battle of the Bulge, the last German Army offensive of the war.

Following the war, Bill studied at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Nancy, France and Trinity College of Music, London, England. He did summer studies with Marion K. Snowden in Sewanee, Tennessee. He was also a graduate of the Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theatre, studied piano with Madame Landau, and modern dance with Martha Graham while living in New York City. Bill has presented piano recitals in Nancy, France, London, England, and New York City. He came to Lubbock and was only passing through in 1947. While in Lubbock, he appeared on the Summer Artists Course Series at Texas Tech, appeared as a guest soloist with the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, and taught on the faculty at Texas Tech University. He was a charter member of the Lubbock Chamber Music Society and was presented on their debut concert.

Though Bill did become a respected concert pianist and loved performing, he

found his life's calling in becoming a masterful teacher. In the past sixty years, he has taught hundreds of piano students, many of who have won scholarships and highest of honors, as well as those who chose to enjoy music as a valuable hobby. He served as president of the South Plains Music Teachers Association, was selected as Teacher of the Year, was a member of the Texas and National Music Teachers Association, a member of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and adjudicator for the National Guild of Piano Teachers. Bill is survived by his wife, Kathy, truly the love of his life, and a son Stephen Padraic Murphy. Also surviving are students and friends too numerous to count. Preceding Bill in death are his parents and a brother James S. Murphy Jr.

Go in peace, Bill Murphy. You lived a rich and full life, surrounded by beautiful music, loving family, and adoring friends. You left us all a legacy of joy and admiration for a life well lived. You were ageless and fearless; the eternal optimist.

In lieu of flowers, Bill's family would prefer donations be made to any music, nature or animal organizations.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sending you lots of love, Kathy. I think of Bill nearly daily, he made such a huge and positive impact on my life. I continue to study music, and have taught it. Thanks to him I have such love for the instrument, that I now am able to pass on to many other children. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. I miss him very much. What a great blessing he continues to be to countless folks.*

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**Patricia Evans** - November 02, 2021 at 11:07 AM

ST

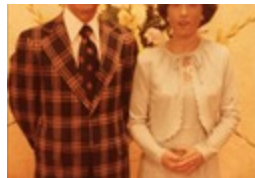
“ *I had the privilege of having both Bill and Kathy as my piano instructor and as family friends. I'm am so grateful for the time I had with Bill and his family growing up. Blessings on Kathy and Padraic during this time.*

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**Steve** - October 03, 2017 at 09:51 AM

KM

“ *6 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Kathy Murphy** - September 30, 2017 at 02:59 PM



*Dear Kathy, I just wanted to send you lots of love and warm wishes. I have so many, many wonderful memories of studying with Bill. What an incredible experience that was, for over 10 years, to study with him and to know you during that time as well. I don't know where the years have gone. Much love to you, Patricia Evans*

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**Patricia Evans** - November 18, 2019 at 05:13 PM

PA

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Padraic** - September 29, 2017 at 11:19 PM

PL

“ *Bill Murphy was my good friend, besides being a great teacher and a pianist, one of the people that truly enjoy the art of life. I met him in 1974 the first time when I landed in the USA as an international student. He made America truly friendly to an 18 years old kid barely speak English. He was a relaxed, enjoyable person who likes good company and good food. According to my wife, he made the best Manhattan. I had many distinguished parties and fellowships hosted by Bill in his house at Indiana Avenue.*

*We went to Christ the King Church for many years on Sunday and had fantastic breakfast afterward during my college days while dating my wife. When we got married at 25, he hosted one of the most memorable wedding rehearsal dinners, and we had a fond memory with him on that big day. He even named his son after me. What an honor.*

*After college, we left Lubbock as engineers. It has been a while since I saw him again in my working life. In 2004, my RV travel took me back to Lubbock from Atlanta en route to California just to see him. We were older, but our great friendship still rings true. We had a great time on that last get together. Now that was my forever memory of a great friend.*

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**Padraic Ley** - September 29, 2017 at 12:04 AM

SM

*I remember many great times with you and your wife, Kathy and Bill*

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**Sherry Mead** - September 29, 2017 at 05:12 AM

KM

*What a nice tribute your wrote, Padraic.*

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**kathy murphy** - September 29, 2017 at 10:32 PM

SM

“ We are so fortunate to have had Bill Murphy as part of our family for close to 40 years. Bill is the most optimistic, even-tempered person I have ever known. He saw things with eyes that most of us don't have; and he had a sincere appreciation for every moment of his life, whether it was a big event like his wedding day, or the smallest routine like cutting his morning grapefruit and buttering his toast. Bill never seemed to be in a rush, but accomplished so much and touched so many people in a positive way. I loved to listen to his stories about serving in WWII, as well as hear him talk as he shared new additions to his beautiful garden. He made the best of any situation, amazing and amusing the doctors and nurses who cared for him during his final days. I feel blessed that my sister chose such a remarkable person with whom to share her life. I will truly miss his infectious joy and calming presence here on earth.  
Sherry Mead

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**Sherry Mead** - September 28, 2017 at 09:37 PM

KM

*Thanks Sherry, you captured Bill's spirit beautifully.*

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**kathy murphy** - September 29, 2017 at 10:33 PM

TC

“ Bill was one of the best, if not the very best piano teacher in Lubbock. I took 3 years from he and he taught me more piano than any other teacher I had! So very sorry for your loss!

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**Tom Crutchfield** - September 28, 2017 at 07:21 PM

KM

*That was a while ago wasn't it? Thanks Tom.*

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**kathy murphy** - September 29, 2017 at 10:34 PM

DP

“ *What an honor to have known Bill and Kathy and Padraic! Bill was a gentle spirit and outstanding musician and teacher. We will miss him.*

*We pray you will feel embraced and comforted by the warm memories of Bill and know that you are loved by many.*

*Dianne & Jim Powell*

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**Dianne Powell** - September 28, 2017 at 05:54 PM

KM

*We did have some great times. Thanks?*

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**kathy murphy** - September 29, 2017 at 10:34 PM

YP

“ *I feel so sorry for losing such a nice person and great teacher!!! In my memory, he is a very nice and respected gentleman! He has a warm heart and wonderful smiling. Every time I talked to him, I always thought I wanted to look up him to be nice and loving person too! 😊 Although we didn't talk that much, maybe one year or two years when I saw him in Sonatina Contest Winner Recital, his attitude and talking manner became a fresh feature in my mind! Our Heavenly Father is in another side to wait for him. Hope Mr. Murphy fly to Heaven with angel and stay with God forever! ❤️*

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**Ya-Li Pekowski** - September 27, 2017 at 12:39 PM

KM

*Thanks Ya-Li!*

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**kathy murphy** - September 29, 2017 at 10:35 PM

SP

“ *Mr. Murphy was one of my heros. I loved him dearly. He gave me the love of music and then also taught both of my kids. We have been deeply touched by him, his sweet character and his love of music he shared with us. Go in peace, Bill...*  
*Shelly Price and Kyle and Leah*

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**Shelly Price** - September 26, 2017 at 01:32 PM

AM

*On behalf of Nursing Support Services at UMC Hospital we want to extend our deepest sympathies to Kathy Murphy. We are incredibly grateful that Bill shared the love of his life with us for all of these years. Kathy we miss you very much and love you dearly. We pray that the God of all comfort, comfort you at this time. We pray that as humans sharing the planet that we can be friends that support, uplift and encourage you at your time of loss. You have such beautiful memories with such a kind man and we pray that those memories sustain you in the days ahead.*  
*With much sympathy and love,*  
*Your Nursing Support Services Family*

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**Anita Lucia Menefee** - September 26, 2017 at 02:38 PM

SA

*I took private piano lessons from Mr. Murphy from 1971-1975, and I loved his passion for music! He was a wonderful teacher and a gentle soul. I'm praying for peace and comfort Kathy and all of his family*

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**Suzanne Allmon** - September 28, 2017 at 11:48 PM

KM

*Thanks, Suzanne! I studied with him during that time as well.*

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**kathy murphy** - September 29, 2017 at 10:36 PM