



Anna Husband

April 7, 1912 - September 3, 2010

Anna Husband quietly passed away on Sept. 3, 2010. As a gifted pianist and teacher, Anna remained a teacher until the moment of her death. Anna was born in Braddock Pa to William and Anna Husband in the year 1912 (making her 98!). She considered herself an only child as a brother passed away at a young age. She is survived by one relative, Elizabeth Husband. Anna obtained a Bachelor degree in Music from Duquesne University. Then she continued her education at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. Anna taught at several universities including Stephen's College in Columbia, Missouri, Eastman School of Music and Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She was director of the Detroit Community Music School for thirteen years. Anna was named Outstanding Teacher of Music in Michigan in 1965. In 1972 she received the Elizabeth Mathias Award from Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Sorority. She retired from the Detroit Community Music School in 1977 and moved to Albuquerque, NM. In Albuquerque Anna met Bonnie Jo Hunt, a Native American Opera singer. Anna, as a pianist, toured with Bonnie Jo as they worked with the organization Arts of Indian America to bring music to Native American Children. In her later years Anna lived in Estes Park, Loveland , Colorado and Fort Collins, Colorado. Anna's loves included animals of all kinds, hiking, backpacking and traveling. Prior to college she traveled in Europe. Her recent memories of trips included a trip to Peru and an ocean cruise. Anna was always up for a trip and did not need much notice. As one of her friend's said, "... the only concern Anna would

have would be the care of her cat, and off she would go.” Donations in Anna’s honor may be made to your favorite charity that deals with animals, or the Arts of Indian America. The address is: Arts of Indian America Attn: Bonnie Jo Hunt 6636 Mossman Place, NE Albuquerque, NM 87110 Phone: 1-505-881-4093 A Celebration of her Life will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at the Estes Park Public Library, 335 East Elkhorn from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Tribute Wall



“ *Anna Husband*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM

JD

“*My debt to Anna Husband is huge. She gave me my first music job in at the Detroit Community Music School in 1974, and she arranged many contacts for me during my first years as a teacher and performer. In truth, it was this job that set my feet on a long and interesting path, but not as interesting as Anna's. Anna, Jean Rupert, and I, by the way, often played chamber music together during the years I knew them.*

I think Anna actually founded the Detroit Community Music School itself. I do know that in the late 1970s the school was a strong pillar of support for a city still reeling from the riots of 1968. Enrollment at the school grew in each of Anna's last four years there.

Anna was a superb pianist, especially in the works of Mozart and Beethoven. She had the ability to play demanding passages with a light or heavy touch and with unsurpassed musical sensitivity. Her other genius was in putting the spotlight on others and encouraging the careers of fine teachers, notably Irene Sharpe, who later taught cello many years at the San Francisco Conservatory and achieved some national fame; Patricia Reiter, still a distinguished violin teacher in Dearborn, Michigan; Albert Fillmore, an excellent pianist and teacher in Detroit; and her partner, Jean Rupert, an extraordinary teacher of violinists, many of whom went on to musical careers of their own.

In about 1978 when Anna and Jean retired to Albuquerque, New Mexico. I heard that they had a small house outside of town. I know Anna loved the weather and the colors the sky and sun imparted on everything in the Southwest. She also loved her new musical life. She found a vocalist-ensemble partner, a Native American woman, I believe, and the two of them performed widely in New Mexico. Unfortunately, my correspondence with Anna was sporadic, and most of her letters to me were accidentally destroyed.

I met Anna again in the Santa Fe airport in the summer of 1996 while I was on my way to a teachers' workshop in Montezuma, NM.

Jean Rupert had left New Mexico several years earlier and had died only recently. In spite of this sadness, Anna was still basically cheerful, optimistic, and intensely interested in all of life's details. She loved her life in New Mexico and was still performing although not as much as she used to.

A year or two later I received word that Anna had moved to Estes Park, Colorado. Since I often travel to Denver, I was able to see her a couple of times. She lived near Pikes Peak, just off Highway 7, in the lower flat of a duplex with a fine view of the mountains and a beautiful valley. Upstairs was the woman who owned the flat. She was Jeanne Wylie Tarosian, a fine poet. Because Jeanne was on a respirator and not very mobile, Anna looked after her. Ever promoting others, Anna arranged for me, on one of my visits, to interview Jeanne on tape. I played parts of the conversation and some of Jeanne's renditions of her poems for my classes back in Minnesota. I think the two of them had a fine friendship until Jeanne's death.

I let correspondence slip again, but when I heard from Anna next, she was in Loveland, at a retirement facility there. I visited her once, and we ate at a Chinese restaurant nearby. I was a little surprised by how cluttered her apartment was, compared to what I remembered in Estes Park. Still Anna seemed chipper, ebullient, and talkative as ever.

Our last meeting was about two years ago at a nursing home. It was a sad and sobering experience to see what dementia had done. Still, through a fuzzy veil of cognizance peered her buoyancy, generosity, and sense of humor.

Anna was a mentor and friend. I will miss her very much.

John Dunham - September 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Anna was an inspiration to me with her attitude and her humor, which was always so close to the surface.

It is good to be reminded to keep a smile on your face and your humor close at hand.

She will be missed.

Michaele Bradley - September 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Anna's sparkle and elfish qualities were with her all of her life. I shall miss her wonderful smile and sweet ways. Blessings.

L. Kirsten Hartman - September 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM