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Barbara Jane GIBAS



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BARBARA GIBAS OBITUARY

Of Minneapolis Died peacefully in her sleep on Monday, December 7th, 2020. She was 74. She was born in Minneapolis, but grew up in Circle Pines when it was still largely undeveloped. Being outdoors was one of her greatest pleasures. She was in the second graduating class of Centennial High School and graduated with honors. A very fine pianist, she graduated with distinction from Eastman School of Music in 1968,

and went on to study piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (Austria), and later at the Royal Academy of Music in London. After many years in England she returned to the US in 1979. She settled in Minneapolis and continued her musical career as a classical pianist. Like many other gifted artists whose professional skills were not rewarded economically, she found it necessary to supplement her income through work as a Legal Secretary. She was smarter than most of the attorneys she worked for, including her brother, Allen. But in addition to being a wonderful pianist and vocalist, Barbara was also funny, poetic and artistic. Her original, multi-paged birthday cards were often a combination of illustrations, verse, history and humor. She was highly determined. She spoke English, French, Italian, German and Spanish fluently, and paid very close attention to public and political events. She loved word games and creative endeavors, and was very well read. She was an excellent piano teacher, both patient and exacting, expecting the best from her students. Her enormous intellectual and artistic talent was hampered by suffering from epilepsy, a condition which ultimately resulted in a serious brain injury that necessitated her residence in a skilled nursing facility for the rest of her life. She continued performing until her health no longer allowed it, and she often donated her services to raise money for causes she believed in. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Andrew and Grace Gibas, and brother, Murray (Marilyn). She is mourned by her brother, Allen (Patricia Jones), sister, Rebecca Gepner (Gregor), cousins, nieces, and nephews. Because of COVID, no in person Memorial Service is planned at this time.

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2 Entries

Allen and Rebecca, I just learned of the passing of Barabra. She was such a sweet and gentle person. When I was young, I enjoyed listening to her playing the piano. I have thought often of her over the years.

Michael Potthoff

April 10, 2021

I am so sorry to hear this sad news. Barbara was such an amazing and inspiring person. I think all (or at least most) of us Carter kids took piano lessons with her at one time or another. She was brilliant and very patient with us. Our whole family admired and respected and liked her.

Valerie Carter (formerly from Circle Pines)

February 5, 2021

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