



Garry Evans Clarke

March 19, 1943 - July 3, 2016

Garry E. Clarke of Chestertown, MD, died on Sunday, July 3, 2016, at University of Maryland Shore Medical Center. Mr. Clarke was born March 19, 1943, in Moline, IL. He received a Bachelor's of Music degree, summa cum laude, from Cornell College in 1965. He graduated from Yale University with a Master of Music degree in 1968. In the fall of that year, he began teaching at Washington College in Chestertown, retiring in 2012. During his career he taught music courses and ensembles and served for many years as chair of the department of music. He was also chair of the department of art and director of the humanities program in interim capacities.

Mr. Clarke was Dean of the College from 1977 to 1983. In the 1981-82 academic year, he served as Acting President of Washington College during the College's bicentennial year. In 1988, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the College, the first and only time that a faculty member has been so honored. In 2009, the Garry E. Clarke Music Library was dedicated in the Gibson Arts Center at Washington College, and upon his retirement the Garry E. Clarke Music Endowment was established. One facet of that endowment is the Garry E. Clarke Performance Prize, awarded annually to an outstanding music student. Mr. Clarke won the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1974, received the College's Gold Pentagon Award in 1979, and in 1982 he received a Visitors and Governors' Citation and an Alumni Council Citation for his work as president of Washington

College.

Mr. Clarke was a pianist, playing solo recitals in the United States and in Europe. He was an accompanist and chamber musician and an opera coach for various singers, including artists formerly on the rosters of the Metropolitan Opera and New York City Opera, and for the New Haven (Connecticut) Opera Society. He was a composer of numerous works including opera, symphonic, chamber, vocal, piano and organ music. On a number of occasions, Mr. Clarke was a guest lecturer in music at the Easton Academy of Arts, and at the Wye Institute in Wye Mills, MD. He was a guest artist-instructor in piano at the Neighborhood Music School, New Haven, and was a composer in the classroom for the Maryland State Department of Education. He was on a number of boards of organizations related to the arts and education. He was also a consultant for the National Association of Schools of Music. For three decades, he was a regional interviewer for Yale College.

Mr. Clarke received a Carnegie Foundation Research Grant in 1964 and a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship for study at Yale in 1965. That year he also received a fellowship from the Ford Foundation. In 1970, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Research Grant to work at Yale on the manuscripts of the American composer, Charles Ives. His edition of Ives's *Varied Air and Variations*, co-edited with John Kirkpatrick, was published in 1971.

He was the author of *Essays on American Music*, a part of the *Contributions in American History* series of Greenwood Press, and numbers of articles and reviews for scholarly journals, including *The Grove Dictionary of American Music*. In 1993, his essay on the opera singer Polyna Stoska won a Council for the Advancement and Support of Education Best Articles of the Year Competition medal.

Mr. Clarke was a church musician from 1958 until 2013. Among the parishes he served as director of music were Christ Methodist Church in Chestertown; St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Centreville, MD; Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Chestertown; and Trinity Cathedral in Easton. For many years, he was on the Commission on Liturgy and Music for the Episcopal Diocese of Easton and was a member of the Association of Anglican Musicians.

He was a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, honorary music society; Omicron Delta Kappa, national college honor society; Order of Omega, fraternity honor society; and Phi Delta Theta, the national fraternity. For many years, he was the faculty adviser to the Maryland Gamma chapter of Phi Delta Theta at Washington College. He was also a member of the Washington College Society of Visitors and Governors.

Mr. Clarke married Melissa Naul on May 24, 1975. She survives him, as do two daughters, a granddaughter, and a son-in-law: Elizabeth Clarke of Easton, Maryland; Catharine and Daniel Ingersoll, and Eleanor Ingersoll, of Lexington, VA. He was predeceased by his parents, Clarence H. Clarke and Gladys Hokinson Clarke Minter, and by his brother, Richard K. Clarke.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2016, at Emmanuel Church in Chestertown at 1:00 pm. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Garry E. Clarke Endowment, c/o Office of College Advancement, Washington College, 300 Washington Avenue, Chestertown, MD 21620.

Cemetery Details

St. Pauls Cemetery (Kent County)

7600 Sandy Bottom Road
Chestertown, MD

Previous Events

Service

JUL 16. 1:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
101 N. Cross St.
Chestertown, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Garry Evans Clarke*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Garry Evans Clarke*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Garry Evans Clarke*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I was only at Washington College as a student for my first two. Since then I have been coming back regularly. I was very involved in both music and theatre at the school. I will always appreciate in 1982, when I needed references to apply to Texas Christian University, that Garry Clarke gladly wrote one for me and I was accepted. Thank you for your assistance Garry. There was only one Garry Clarke.*

Bruce Funk - July 27, 2016 at 09:15 AM

KD

“ Though I never took a class from Garry during my time at WC, during the four years I was there I spent a lot of time under his wing, as I always participated in his Renaissance choir at Christmas. I remember Garry's performative spirit as the driving force behind an enjoyable pageant with lots of details that returned year after year - the costumes, the opportunity for certain English professors to perform ostentatious recitals, the whole pig, and, of course, the wassail! To this day, when I think of a choirmaster, I think of Garry Clarke. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Katie Degentesh - July 17, 2016 at 04:22 PM

BM

The summer before my junior year at WC, I received a letter asking me to bring my flute with me to play in a newly forming concert orchestra. I brought it and had the wonderful experience of being in a group of musicians made up of students, professors, and townies under the direction of Garry Clarke for 2 years. I also took music theory from him as a senior. He was a friend as much as a professor.

Barbara Harbaugh Measell - August 13, 2016 at 01:56 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Garry Evans Clarke.



July 15, 2016 at 06:21 PM

JE

“ *Dear Melissa and Family,
We were so sorry to learn of Garry's death and want you to know you are in our thoughts and prayers. We felt so lucky to have Garry play at Sandi and Paul's wedding and happy that you were part of that special day. We will always remember him as kind, fun and smiling! Love, Jannice and Joe Edwards*

Jannice G. Edwards - July 15, 2016 at 04:07 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Garry Evans Clarke.*



July 13, 2016 at 07:39 AM

M'

“ *I was a music minor and loved the classes I took with Professor Clarke. I especially remember the day in Opera class when Ward Tatnall pulled out his new Queen album and told all of us about "Bohemian Rhapsody." Garry was very open-minded about it. My deepest sympathies to Melissa and the girls.*

Mary Ellen Lipinski Miller, '77, P '18

Mary Ellen Lipinski Miller, '77, P '18 - July 12, 2016 at 03:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Garry Evans Clarke.



July 11, 2016 at 07:56 PM

AL

“My life was certainly shaped and enriched because I had the good fortune to have Garry Clarke as a teacher and mentor. His generosity of spirit, his ready wit and amazing talent inspired and encouraged so many of us to reach for more than we thought we could be. I had a rewarding career as a professional musician partly due to his influence. I want to express my deepest sympathies to Melissa and the family on this untimely loss, and will keep you in my prayers for comfort and healing. I would like to offer some of my favorite recollections below:

Garry Clarke was an astounding pianist, and one of my fondest memories was, my freshman year, late at night, curling up on the floor in the doorway outside his office in the music building, with my ear to the door, while he was inside practicing Gottschalk for an upcoming concert. I was new, and could not believe I would get to be educated under this amazingly talented man. I also recall taking his course on Opera, and on the first day of class, he gave some introductory comments, and then whisked aside a sliding blackboard to reveal a second one beneath that was already decorated with a complicated outline, and said, at the top, “Clarke’s Snazzy Analysis of Otello!”

Garry and the head of the Math department, Dr. Brown, were opera buffs, and once allowed me to come with them all the way from Maryland to the New York City Opera, to see Erich Korngold’s masterpiece, “Die Tote Stadt”. I was allowed to join them since I was a huge fan of Korngold from his film scores, and they thought I should see another aspect of his work. They made this trip often and were busy laughing and chatting with each other, as I tagged along. When we walked into the elegant promenade and up the curving stairs to the seating levels, we passed the giant semi-nude, rotund marble statues that have always been there in the lobby, Garry said, “Oh, look! Bach and Handel at the Turkish baths!” I later read they were supposed to be some kind of earth goddesses or muses, but years later, when I worked in the chorus of that very

company, and had occasion to go into the lobby, whenever I looked at those statues, they were always “Bach and Handel at the Turkish baths” to me. And it always made me giggle.

Gary Clarke was a world class expert on Charles Ives. In a music appreciation course I was in, for majors as well as outsiders who needed some humanities credits, Garry chose to deliver an entire 90 minute lecture all about the place of Charles Ives in the history of American music, covering his life, work, innovations, and how he influenced the future. The lecture was so comprehensive, and filled with samples and information that we all sat there quietly, taking notes as fast as we could. Just as the class was about to end, Garry, with great satisfaction, put down his chalk and stated, “...and that is the story of how Charles Ives changed the face of American music!” Whereupon a small, but indignant voice from the back row whined, “Charles? CHARLES!? I thought we were talking about Burl!” Garry put his head down on the desk.

April L. Lindevald - July 10, 2016 at 11:52 PM

MC

“MMMMMMMMM!!!! That was the way Garry and I always greeted each other after sharing a ride to Connecticut one year. I was a student of Garry's and we were going on thanksgiving break. We happened to stop at a rest stop. The waitress began and ended every question/sentence with a hum. Too funny...that greeting lasted for the next 30 years at least!

Melissa, I want to send my deepest sympathies to you and your girls. Garry was a great, funny, smart, human, talented, thoughtful, loving person, who shall be missed dearly.

with love,

Mary Currier '80

Mary Currier - July 07, 2016 at 12:36 PM

FG

“ I'm sure many memories will start with, "I was lucky..." Count me in as one of the fortunate people who think of Professor Clarke in this way. I was there from the beginning, when Professor Clarke took a ragtag group of students who loved to sing and turned this group into a fine sounding ensemble. Professor Clarke worked his magic and turned casual interest into a department. His passion and energy is still a vivid and treasured memory.

I still am singing my heart out. I will always be grateful to Washington College for recognizing the importance of music and bringing Professor Clarke to us. What a gift he was.

Melissa, my deepest sympathy to you and your family. I hope soon, joyful memories of your life with Gary will ease the pain of his loss.

Fran Greenbaum, class of '69

Fran Greenbaum - July 06, 2016 at 04:21 PM

AA

“ I was lucky to have Professor Clarke as my advisor as an undergraduate at Washington College. Even though I was a history major who couldn't tell an oboe from his elbow, Professor Clarke treated me like I was his number one priority every time I went to meet him. He was courteous and thoughtful and his impact at Washington College was felt well beyond the music department.

Andy Adkins - July 06, 2016 at 02:46 PM

GK

“Garry was an exceptional colleague who brought out the best in everyone, a dear friend, and mentor (I can just imagine him saying "oh, come on now" to this). I thought of him like family and feel so fortunate to have known him in my capacity. He was a brilliant, thoughtful, humorous, and kind man. He will be missed dearly. May the heavens surround him with both beautiful and the more unknown and underplayed music which always grabbed his curiosity!

Grace Eun Hae Kim - July 06, 2016 at 02:09 PM

JD

“Joyce Davis lit a candle in memory of Garry Evans Clarke



Joyce Davis - July 06, 2016 at 12:13 PM

QB

“Melissa- we are sorry to hear of Gary's passing. This sad news comes from Sanford were you and I attended. I have many memories of my short time in Maryland of you, Gary, Kate and the gang enjoying theatre and many musical concerts. Gary was an incredibly talented person and will be terribly missed in the Chesterton Community. My deepest sympathies to you and the girls.

Quail Baez

Quail Louise Baez - July 06, 2016 at 11:29 AM

SC

“ I drank a lot of wine with Garry and loved him dearly! The Lord be with you, Garry! Susan Clark

susan clark - July 06, 2016 at 10:05 AM

RG

“ I have fond memories of Mr Clarke from my childhood at St Paul's in Centreville.

In the last year, I feel blessed to have reunited with him through the Church Hill Theatre. A dedicated, loving, enthusiastic man. Sending love to the family. May your memories shine brightly.

Rachel Goss - July 06, 2016 at 09:18 AM

CW

“ I was in Garry's first class taught at Washington College. After completing a degree in Music, I was privileged to call him friend. Sending prayers of comfort to Melissa and his girls.



Carol Weisel - July 06, 2016 at 08:51 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Garry Evans Clarke.



July 05, 2016 at 10:46 PM

CW

“ I was in Garry's first class taught at Washington College. After completing a degree in Music, I was privileged to call him friend. Sending prayers of comfort to Melissa and his girls.



Carol Weisel - July 05, 2016 at 10:33 PM

CW

“ I was in Garry's first class taught at Washington College. After completing a degree in Music, I was privileged to call him friend. Sending prayers of comfort to Melissa and his girls.



Carol Weisel - July 05, 2016 at 10:30 PM

NT

“ Nancy Toy lit a candle in memory of Garry Evans Clarke



Nancy Toy - July 05, 2016 at 04:20 PM

NT

My condolences to the family. Garry was a wonderful, talented and kind man and will be missed by so many.

Nancy Toy - July 05, 2016 at 04:24 PM

JM

My thought and prayers to the family, He was one of the nicest and happiest person I have ever worked with, it was a pleasure to see him on the campus of WC.

Jay Meranchik - July 06, 2016 at 09:41 AM

KJ

Melissa and the girls (as I still think of you), you have all my condolences. Gary once told me that I had indeed been his worst piano student ever, which I am sure was true, but we continued to be fond of each other nonetheless. I remember waiting in the hall outside his office in the days when the Gibson Fine Art Center was very new. I also remember very well the opera he composed, for which my father wrote the libretto, and even better the long dress I made to go to the opening night! Because he was an alumni rep, I sometimes ran into him when I was in college, and occasionally as well on my increasingly infrequent visits to Chestertown. He was one of the really great Washington College faculty of his time, but also an engaged member of the larger community, who brought beautiful music into the everyday (well mostly Sundays!) lives of many outside the college community who were lucky to have access to it because of him. And he clearly really enjoyed doing this, just as he took enormous pride in his family. Kathleen James-Chakraborty

Kathleen James-Chakraborty - July 07, 2016 at 08:00 AM

CL

“ Cindy Licata lit a candle in memory of Garry Evans Clarke



Cindy Licata - July 05, 2016 at 03:25 PM

CL

Garry, you will be missed so much. Goldstein Hall won't be the same without you. Those of us who knew you were privileged. Melissa and girls, my heart aches for you. Love to you all.

Cindy Licata - July 05, 2016 at 03:30 PM

PB

Dear .. Melissa .. So sorry .. I just read his obituary .. What a great loss 😞...sorry I never had the pleasure of meeting him ..hope your surrounded by loved ones 🙏

Pam Bielory - July 06, 2016 at 11:49 AM