

CCM
PRESENTS

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
FOR
BARBARA HONN
4/29/1944 - 8/3/2023

Sunday, October 15, 2023
Robert J. Werner Recital Hall
2:00 p.m.

University of 
CINCINNATI | COLLEGE-CONSERVATORY
OF MUSIC

CELEBRATING BARBARA!

Welcome

Gwendolyn Coleman

Opening Words

Jennifer Honn

Remembrance

Terence Goff

I Believe

Dave Ragland
(b. 1980)

Text by Anonymous

I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining.

I believe in love, even when I feel it not.

I believe in God, even when He is silent.

Katherine Jolly, soprano

Christina Haan, piano

Remembrance

Patrice Pastore

Remembrance

Thomas Baresel

Morgen

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

Text by John H. Mackay

And tomorrow the sun will shine again

And on the path that I shall take,

It will unite us again, happy ones,

Amid this same sun-breathing earth ...

And to the broad, blue-waved shore,

We shall quietly and slowly descend,

Speechless we shall gaze into each other's eyes,

And the speechless silence of bliss will fall upon us ...

Gabrielle Turgeon, soprano

Allen Perriello, piano

CELEBRATING BARBARA!

Remembrance

Alison Acord & Christina Haan

O sink hernieder (from *Tristan und Isolde*)

Richard Wagner
(1813-1883)

Text by Richard Wagner

Descend, O Night of love, grant oblivion that I may live; take me up into your bosom, release me from the world! Extinguished now the last glimmers; what we thought, what we imagined; all thought, all remembering, the glorious presentiment of sacred twilight extinguishes imagined terrors, world-redeeming. The sun concealed itself in our bosom, the stars of bliss gleam, laughing, softly entwined in your magic, sweetly dissolved before your eyes; heart on your heart, mouth on mouth; the single bond of a single breath; my glance is deflected, dazzled with bliss, the world pales with its blinding radiance: lit by Day's guileful deception, standing firm against deceitful delusion, then am I myself the world; floating in sublime bliss, life of love most sacred, the sweetly conscious undeluded wish never again to waken.

Tamara Wilson, soprano
Stuart Skelton, tenor
Allen Perriello, piano

Closing remarks

Catherine Cook

The family invites everyone to continue the Celebration in the Baur Room for a reception immediately following the program.

BARBARA HONN OBITUARY

by Jennifer Honn

Everyone who knew Barbara Honn — as an opera singer, as a teacher and mentor, as a friend or family member — recognized two wildly contradictory things about her: She was a magnificent world-class diva, and she was a down-to-earth girl from Kansas. When she walked into a room, it was like a spotlight shone on her, and you could see her command attention with just the tilt of her head or the wave of a hand. Her high artistic standards draped her at all times, but she would speak as enthusiastically about ducks she had seen on a pond or a sale on Christmas ornaments as she would about a new production of Don Giovanni. She had a no-nonsense bluntness when confronted with the world's nonsense, and a deep appreciation of an elegantly dirty joke. Her wit could bite but her love could heal. Barbara Honn passed away on August 3, 2023 after a brief illness, following a diagnosis of cancer.

Many people around the globe knew Barbara Honn as a colleague, having performed with her in opera houses and other notable stages in Germany, Belgium, Italy, Austria, Holland, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal and all around the United States. But today, even more know Barbara Honn as a teacher and mentor. She touched countless singers' lives through her 25 years of teaching at University of Cincinnati, CCM. They came to her from all directions. Some were introduced to her through her many programs and seminars such as The Grandin Festival and the Rising Star Singer's Audition Works. Some knew her from her time as Director of Vocal Studies at Bel Canto Northwest in Portland, Oregon or as a vocal consultant for the apprenticeship programs at L'Opera Bastille in Paris, the San Francisco Opera, and the Instituto Superiore del Arte, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Some found her through programs such as The Opera Theater of Lucca in Italy, the Israel Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, the Academy of Vocal Arts, the Voice Symposium of Philadelphia, the Westminster Choir College Summer Program or through the many masterclasses, lectures, concerts and recitals she gave nationally and internationally. Students of Barbara Honn have participated in apprenticeship and summer programs with Wolf Trap, Merola, San Francisco Opera, Aspen, Santa Fe, Glimmerglass and many others. Today, her students perform in major opera houses throughout the world.

And a very lucky few knew her as a beloved mother, grandmother, daughter, wife, aunt, sister-in-law and friend. They, better than anyone, knew how much Barbara loved to travel, to see beautiful places and taste exquisite food and drink. And when she was home, they knew better than anyone how much Barbara loved to entertain and share her love of music and life's beauties with others.

Her partner in all of life's adventures, Larry Honn, who passed two years ago, was her constant support. He took it as his dedicated mission in life to keep their family laughing and rolling their eyes at his antics. Together, Barbara and Larry brought their children, Scott and Jennifer, on travels around the world, nurturing in them a deep appreciation of music, culture, laughter, curiosity and a love of meeting new and interesting people. Barbara loved talking about the unique spirit of her grandchildren, Mackenzie and Casey. She also loved calling her science editor son-in-law, John Rennie, for the scientific answers to questions like, "What makes sunsets so beautiful?" One of her favorite pastimes was roaming for hours around Home Goods with Kimberly Hawley, the daughter she adopted in her heart. And she was a good mother over the years to many fine dogs, most recently her beloved Jazz.

One thing that all the people Barbara Honn touched with her spirit have in common is that they will be forever changed by having had her in their orbit. With her love of art and music, her teaching, her love for family and friends, Barbara Honn wove a tapestry of beauty, passion, and inspiration. As we bid farewell to a true artist, let us remember her with gratitude and celebrate the legacy of her life — an eight-decade long aria of artistry, laughter and love.

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