



Dean A. Farnham

October 8, 1932 - November 7, 2013

Dr. Dean Alan Farnham of Marrienne Estates, Shippenville passed away on November 7, 2013. Dr. Farnham performed internationally as a musician in the classical, jazz, musical theater, pop and rhythm and blues genres. He was also an arranger, educator and loyal husband and father. He played first trombone with The Boston Pops under renowned conductor Arthur Fielder. He also played with the Baltimore Symphony and The Sante Fe Opera Orchestra under legendary composer/conductors Igor Stravinsky and Paul Hindemith. After teaching music at the University of Northern Iowa, he became full Professor of Music at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. He earned the title of Professor Emeritus after decades of loyal service. He was the conductor of CUP's Brass Choir and enjoyed arranging popular hits and performing with his students. Dr. Farnham studied at New England Conservatory in Boston and earned his doctoral degree from Boston University.

Dr. Farnham was a veteran of the United States Army, Korean War. He was also a loyal supporter of the Salvation Army and charities working for animal rights and veterans aid. He was preceded in death by his wife Betty Lou Farnham, also an accomplished musician. He is survived by his daughter Katherine of Hendersonville, Tennessee, a brother, retired Lieutenant Colonel William Farnham and his wife Chakriya of Tampa, Florida, and nieces and nephews Shelley, Shawn, Bo, Mark and Lawrence of California.

Dr. Farnham enjoyed listening to Renaissance classical, R&B and gospel music, reading, watching Pittsburgh Steelers games on television and spending quiet time with his cat. He will be laid to rest next to his wife, parents and uncle in Springfield, Massachusetts.

There will no visitation. Services will be private.

Tribute Wall

DH

“ *My condolences to the Farnham family.
Dean was the best trombone player I ever played with.
We were in the North Carolina Symphony in 1957.
He tried to get me with the Santa Fe Opera orchestra
but was too late.*

dave herfort - January 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *Dr. Farnham's Brass Choir at CUP was one of my favorite performance groups.
My deepest sympathies to your family.*

Lisa E. Hummel - November 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ *Hi Katherine, I am so very sorry for your loss. I know how much you cared for
your father. I pray that God will give you the strength you need to face these days
of grief. And I also pray for Him to wrap His loving arms of comfort around you
and bring you the comfort that only He can give. You know I'm here for you if you
need anything. May God's blessings be upon you. Love, Pastor Kate*

Pastor Kate Reitz - November 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AE

“ *Dear Kathy:
My wife, Sylvia, and I knew Dean and Betty Lou for many years. We live in the
second house down Ridgewood Road from their home. We knew them both as
kind and friendly neighbors and as talented musicians. When they were members
of the Clarion University music department, we attended several faculty recitals in
which they entertained us with their fine musical talents.
Several weeks ago, we heard our doorbell ring and we were surprised to see
Dean at the door. He needed to use our phone to report an electrical power
outage at his house. After his phone call, he sat with us in our living room and
chatted a while. We were very pleased to see him and talk with him. When he
was ready to leave, I offered to drive him home since, although he lives nearby, it
is a steep uphill walk. He politely declined the offer saying that he needed the
exercise. Although we saw him mowing the lawn, this was our last opportunity to
talk with him. We will miss him and continue to miss Betty Lou.
Albert and Sylvia Exton
318 Ridgewood Road*

Albert and Sylvia Exton - November 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dear Kathy,
I was so sorry to hear about your father's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of sorrow. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to call. God bless.

Jackie Hughes - November 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Kathy, I was so sorry to hear about your dad. I spoke with him this past year at the Chinese restaurant and he looked so hale and hearty. I will always remember his smiling face, and his pleasant conversation. He always seemed to have a positive attitude. I will always remember listening to both of your parents' concerts, reel to reel tapes, and checking out the progress on your Dad's crawl space project. When I was discouraged, your father's wisdom and advice boosted my spirit and helped my studies in Grad school. You were blessed with such wonderful and talented parents. I will miss them both. They always treated me well and made me feel like part of the family. Having lost both of my parents, I can say that our parents never leave us, as we continually see them in ourselves. Much love and comfort to you, Bev.XO

Beverly (Rycz) Miller - November 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ I have such vivid memories of taking piano lessons with Mrs Farnham, and Dr Farnham playing his trombone, or playing with their Siamese cats. They were lovely, serious musicians and a joy to be near. Aside from lessons, we lived down the hill from them. Beautiful memories. Our sympathies. My brother has gone far with his his trombone since those days.

Leila Said Guowski - November 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RV

“ Kathy, your was a great music man. I'll will always remember your father as he taught at the college. In remember when he came to the high school for one of our performances. He delighted to be your father. I'm truly sorry for loss. God Bless You. Rae

Rae Vogel - November 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ Dr. Farnham was the teacher that taught me to love history once music was tied into it for reference. That is a lifelong gift he gave to me in his small Clarion classroom, one I try to give my own students everyday.

Ellen Pancerev - November 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ I was honored to have Dr. Farnham as an applied teacher for lessons. I also had him for music history and literature. His wealth of knowledge and his passion to pass it on were incredible. He loved what he did and it showed. He will be greatly missed, and leaves a huge legacy. My sincerest sympathies.

Melissa Johnson - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ My most sincere sympathies. Dr. Farnham was a exemplary teacher and performer. We were tremendously blest to have his caliber of professor at Clarion University. His skill as a performer were superb. His knowledge of music history exceeded Standards at Clarion. He always was meticulous in his presentations during classes. He started the 'Brass Choir' one of the most prestigious groups ever formed at Clarion. We performed incredible music under his masterful direction. I learned so much from him and still talk about him to my students. He will be fondly missed. Most sincerely yours.

Linda (Coleman) Lalonde - November 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM