



## Bradford "Brad" Karl Miller

April 26, 1951 - August 6, 2020

Bradford Karl Miller, age 69, transitioned to his heavenly home on August 6, 2020, from Early-Onset Alzheimer's disease.

Born April 26, 1951, to Karl and Ada Miller, he grew up in Federal Way, Washington, graduating from Federal Way High School in 1969. He attended the University of Washington and Central Washington University receiving a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting, alongside a teaching certificate. On April 8, 1989 he married Janice Elaine Folsom in Wenatchee.

Brad lived in Wenatchee, WA and Spokane, WA and worked at several public elementary schools as a general music teacher in the Spokane and Wenatchee school districts. During 1975 Brad toured as an assistant director with the Continental Singers and traveled to the US & Poland. He then became a director and led Continental tours through the US and Europe in 1978 and 1979. A notable Theatre Organist, he performed many concerts throughout the Pacific Northwest as a silent movie accompanist, while also helping to rebuild and restore multiple pipe organs throughout the country. Beginning in 1982 Brad worked at Belmont Music in Wenatchee for several years with his friend and notable jazz musician, Don Lanphere. He later owned two music stores in Wenatchee, Home Music & Paradise Music. Brad directed the Columbia Chorale from 1984-1989 and 1990-1997 (only taking a

year off to pursue a master's degree). Brad also served as music director for several churches throughout his life including Whitworth Presbyterian church in Spokane and Free Methodist church in Wenatchee. (The old church hymns were one of his delights in life). He will be remembered for his passion for music and teaching, his incredible sense of humor, and his dedication as a father. In later years, playing piano at Pybus Market in Wenatchee was one of his joys!

Brad is survived by his wife Janice, sons Timothy (24, resides in Wenatchee) and Jonathan (30, resides in Kennewick, WA with wife Cassandra), and daughter Katherine (26, resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan), brother Dale Miller, (wife Diana) of Green Valley, AZ, niece Marci Anderson (husband Scott) of Bellingham, WA, nephew Matt Miller, (Bellingham), plus grandnieces & nephews: Jacob Anderson (Annie) Sarah Anderson, Abby Anderson, Addie Anderson.

The family appreciates all the loving care and support from his providers at Confluence Health, and Fieldstone Memory Care.

A celebration of life is not able to be scheduled at this time. You are invited to view Brad's online tribute at [www.heritagememorialchapel.com](http://www.heritagememorialchapel.com) to share a memory or leave a condolence. Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee & Cashmere.

# Tribute Wall

PT

“ *Bradford "Brad" Karl Miller*

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**Peggy Thomas** - October 12, 2022 at 11:04 AM

FC

“ *Mr. Miller was my elementary school music teacher. At age 26 I still have vivid memories of all the fun my class would have. He taught me so many foundational skills, including how to read sheet music, that I still use to this day! I remember singing holiday concerts for our families full of multi-cultural songs about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza. The melodies and lyrics are still playing in my head! Mr. Miller was a great man who did great things. I've tried to attach a picture of him and me when I graduated from Woodridge elementary around 2006, so hopefully that works.*

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**Forest Carter** - December 20, 2020 at 04:49 PM

TO

“ *I just read the news about Brad's passing and am saddened to realize that he gone. However, I have many fond memories of Brad since we both were involved in music and taught in the elementary schools in Wenatchee, as well as his connection with his music stores, and involvement in the community regarding the performing arts. He was an inspiration and gave much joy to others by sharing his many contributions involving music and education. I imagine Brad is enjoying his new journey along with many of our past outstanding community musicians and those he met throughout his worldly travels. My condolences to his family!*

*With Sincerity,  
Theresa L. Ogan*

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**Theresa L. Ogan** - August 27, 2020 at 03:07 PM

JN

“ I am sorry to hear of Brad's passing. I worked with him when he has music director at the Free Methodist Church and I was on staff as a secretary/bookkeeper. He was an amazing musician and a wonderful man. So fun to be around. I always made a point to go to the silent movies if I knew he was playing the organ. I swear he could get beautiful music out of anything--such talent. My thoughts are with Janice and the family during this time of grief. Joy Neal (currently living in Mount Vernon, WA).

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**Joy Neal** - August 26, 2020 at 11:15 AM

WW

“ I had the pleasure of working with Brad at Woodridge Elementary in Spokane for a number of years. What a good, talented man! Brad was so gifted and committed musically. I was always so impressed with the many different directions he went with his music lessons in the classroom, and boy did he know how to put on a quality show with the kids. I had the good fortune of doing a few things musically with Brad myself, from performing in the nighttime show up at the outdoor education camps (which Brad took upon himself to totally coordinate) to playing back-up for a young singer at our year-end assembly. You never had to ask Brad twice to help out with things like this, and it was a bonus for me just to watch his magic on the keyboard every time. Brad even went to the trouble of putting together a contemporary pop music CD for me, complete with a cover entitled "Wheeler's Groove Toonz". The man had no shortage of energy, that's for sure. A completely unique talent and personality.

*My most heartfelt sympathies to all his loved ones.*

*Sincerely,  
Warren Wheeler*

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**Warren Wheeler** - August 22, 2020 at 12:50 PM

SD

“ Jan and Family - thank you for sharing Mr. Miller to my children and the Woodridge family in Spokane. His passion for music was contagious and he was great with the kids. He made an impact on their lives and we are forever grateful for that. Our prayers Of comfort go out to all of you. May you find peace playing some of his favorite music.

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**Sean Douglas** - August 21, 2020 at 02:01 AM

CB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Brad's passing. My husband also passed of Early Onset Alzheimer's disease so I understand the journey his family has been on. I knew Brad through his son, John, and the Mead band program. Brad was always pleasant and supportive of the program. My condolences to John, Janice and the rest of the Miller family.

*Claudia Bjorklund*

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**Claudia Bjorklund** - August 18, 2020 at 06:40 PM

FH

“ And our 1977 tour in its formal picture. I owe a lot to your husband and Dad.

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**Fred J. Heumann** - August 17, 2020 at 10:39 PM

FH

“ This is the tour we were both part of in 1975. See how long it takes you to find us both...

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**Fred J. Heumann** - August 17, 2020 at 10:35 PM

CR

“ So sorry to hear of Brad's passing. He made a lot of people happy, over the years, playing the Liberty Theater pipe organ at the museum. He will be missed. Hugs to all. Chris Rader

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**Chris Rader** - August 17, 2020 at 03:50 PM

CB

“ *Connie Birks*  
After Jan had her recent surgery, I was visiting Jan and Brad in their home. Brad began to serenade us with spontaneous lovely music. I felt so blessed to see him light up while sharing his passion and it made me feel special. Many prayers for comfort and healing to all the family.

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**Connie Birks** - August 16, 2020 at 11:34 PM

FH

“ *One more--polyester at its' finest, as we all wore in 1977...*

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**Fred J. Heumann** - August 15, 2020 at 06:37 PM

FH

“ *A couple of more photos from the '70's!*

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**Fred J. Heumann** - August 15, 2020 at 06:27 PM

FH

“ Jan and family,

*I've posted some of this elsewhere but wanted to be sure it made it here. I traveled with Brad with Continentals first in 1975 as we were part of the leadership for their first group to go behind the Iron Curtain into Poland, and then he agreed to help me the summer of 1977 in leading the tour around the US and Canada. After that (40 years ago!), he directed his own groups of 40 young people 16-25 for the summers ministering in churches, halls, auditoriums, and public venues. (I will post some pictures from both of those summer tours...)*

*I am sad. I have said this to Janice Folsom Miller in the last year...but Brad was one of my favorite people. From being Assistant Directors together for Jon Stemkoski in 1975, to him agreeing to be MY assistant(!), confidant, encourager, bus driver, and comic relief on my first tour as director. What a setup for me! He had far more musical training than me, was a few years older, yet served the Lord, the tour, and me in so many ways. His mix of humor, musicality, spirituality, humility, and mischief was such a great fit. I will forever be grateful for his friendship. Requiescat in pace, Brad.*

*Father, may you receive Brad with the "Well done, good and faithful servant" his heart has desired. Eternal rest grant unto him and let perpetual light shine upon him. Pour out your peace on Jan and their dear family. Thank you for all he gave in your name. May it continue to bear fruit for your Kingdom's sake. In the name of your son Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

*[In the pictures, I'm the one with him in the white polo shirt, with him making goofy faces from behind...the first two are from 1975, the rest are from 1977.]*

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Fred J. Heumann - August 15, 2020 at 06:25 PM

CM

“ *Jan and family,  
You are all special to me and my thoughts and prayers are with you. Many memories crowd my mind about Brad's musicianship. I loved hearing him play piano because he was so free, expressive, skilled, full of improvisation and rhythm. As a pianist, I truly admired his skill and what he offered to the many settings he performed in. He gave the gift of music to people wherever he went. Memories of Brad organizing family Christmas Caroling comes to mind... And I have good memories of buying music for my piano students at his Paradise Music store! In the recent past, I sat at a concert with Jan and heard Tim play his saxophone. It was as heartfelt and skilled as his father's piano playing. Thanks for letting me be part of your lives. You are gift-givers. God's care and presence during this difficult time. Cathy Wirth Merrill & family*

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**Catherine Merrill** - August 14, 2020 at 08:55 PM

DB

“ *Brad didn't know me well, but I was in the Columbia Chorale in the mid 1990's. Of all the music directors I've known, Brad always astounded me by the way he could pair up two chorale-members' voices so beautifully.  
Darlene Baker*

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**Darlene Baker** - August 14, 2020 at 12:33 PM

BB

“ We met Brad soon after he went to work at Belmont Music. I worked at the Crosswalk Christian book store down the street from Belmont's. On his breaks he would come next door to "get to know the staff". In reality it was because he loved music and wanted us to know the very best in the latest Christian Music available and to give us all a smile over something fun and whacky in the world outside our doors. Then came the day when Brad saw My hubby and I at the Grocery Store and said I have someone special in my life. Her name is Jan and she is on her way back to Wenatchee from a time with WYAM Christian services. I really, really like her. I hope she marries me---well after we date awhile. But, I met her before she left and I really like her. The rest is history. Upon return to Wenathcee after living in Spokane. He would often drop by our home for 10-15 minutes to say hello. He also never failed to keep us informed of his Movies and the pipe organ programs at the Museum. The best of these was when he shared the longest Silent Movie ever made and shared that the organists originally often made up the music as the movie was playing on the screen. That night we watched the movie and then I realized there was not one page of music on the organ that night! He too was composing the music as the movie was being shown! He gave our Grandsons in Spokane the greatest gift a musician can give. He taught them a few lessons on their brand new piano, after helping us pick out the gift piano for them. Then he opened his bag and gave them some of his treasured old pieces of well loved music and gave them a private in their home piano concert on their new piano. He also gave them little note pads and encouraged them to write down the name of every song they ever memorized and then to always go back and refresh that song to their memory! These stories tell us by how lived his life the heart and soul of this fine man whom we know to be a child of the King.

Our love and prayers go out to his Lovely Wife Jan and they gracious children whom we have met and enjoyed the music Brad shared with in their own musical talents. God Bless you all.

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Ben & Nalda Bendowsky - August 13, 2020 at 08:07 PM

LS

“ I enjoyed being in Columbia Chorale when Brad was director. My sympathy to the family and I'm so sorry. LaVern Strawn

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**LaVern Strawn** - August 13, 2020 at 02:32 PM

AL

“ Janice, I wanted to let you know I have been praying for you and your family during these difficult days of grief. I traveled with Brad back in 1977 when he was the assistant director and our bus driver. He was the funnest bus driver I had in all my travels. He will be missed.

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**Andrew Large** - August 12, 2020 at 10:29 PM

RH

“ I was on tour with Brad in the Continental Singer's. I remember Brad as a wonderfully funny tour member. He would also enjoy joining the boys in teasing me over my huge suitcase that the boys had to lug around. I remember once being left at a mall it had so many exits I couldn't find my way out! The temperature was over 100 degrees. It was so hot that day. I ran around the entire mall outside searching for the tour bus and Brad had moved the bus to teach me a lesson not to be late. But I remember laughing endlessly with Brad. He was funny and genuine. I wish we all could have stayed closer that tour was magical. Great friends, great music and a what a mission!

*Prayers for Brads family and those left behind, Brad is with our Father how wonderful!*

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**Robin Hayward** - August 12, 2020 at 10:25 PM

NL

“ Jan, I fondly remember Brad's monthly visits with Richard whom he called "Papa". They would reminisce and neither one could remember the name of the person they were talking about so I would have to furnish the name and on they would chat! These visits were good for Richard. Brad was so friendly and upbeat! Maybe they are directing a choir together again. Many wishes of condolence to you and your family. Love, Nancy Lapo

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**Nancy Lapo** - August 12, 2020 at 07:12 PM

MA

“ So very sorry to hear of the passing of our classmate Brad. He was so well loved by all and we spoke of him at our 50th reunion last year. Deepest sympathies to Janice and the entire family  
Marcia (MacRae) Solberg  
Webster, South Dakota

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**Marcia** - August 10, 2020 at 01:22 PM