



Janice Conrads

December 13, 1953 - October 27, 2023

***The service will be live streamed here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Bygt1cxmy7qT910Xs6_nw

Janice “Jan” Conrads passed away on 10/27/2023 at her home after a short battle with bladder cancer.

Jan was an accomplished and highly respected musician throughout her career. She began playing piano at the age of 3, and sang the lead in her first opera while still in high school in her hometown of Cedar Falls, Iowa. She went on to major in vocal performance at the University of Northern Iowa, where she received her Bachelor of Music degree, and spent an additional year there as a graduate student, serving as Music Theory Assistant.

After recording and touring in the United States, Europe, Russia, and Poland, Jan continued her formal musical training on full scholarship at the University of Cincinnati’s prestigious College-Conservatory of Music, where she received her Master of Music degree, won first place in the Klose-Seybold Vocal Competition, sang leading and supporting operatic roles, and completed studies for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

Jan made her professional operatic debut with the Pittsburgh Chamber Opera Theater in 1983, and subsequently sang over 50 leading and supporting

operatic and musical theater roles throughout the Great Lakes region.

A versatile musician, Jan also worked as a pianist, coach-accompanist, arranger, musical and stage director, spokesperson, actress, vocalist, make-up designer, and costume assistant with various dinner theater companies and theatrical organizations. She also produced, directed, and performed a variety of shows aboard the Delta Queen, Mississippi Queen, and Showboat Majestic Riverboats, and throughout the Midwest, as well as in Windsor, Canada. In addition, Jan served as Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the Stoughton Opera Company, as well as Owner, Music Director, and Pianist for the Cabaret on Main Dinner Theater near Madison, Wisconsin.

After returning to Iowa in 2007, Jan taught music classes at Hawkeye Community College, served up gourmet food and entertainment at the Waterloo Elk's Club, and worked as Activity Director for Friendship Village. Most recently, she played piano for Von Maur Department store while entertaining throughout the Cedar Valley as either a solo or duo act, and with her band, The Vinyl Frontier.

Jan leaves behind her loving parents Abe and Wilma Jean "Jeanie" Conrads, her amazing sister Rose Marie "Rosie" LaPole and brother-in-law Larry LaPole, nephew Christopher LaPole with wife Jalyn and their daughter Abigail, and nieces Rebecca "Becca" LaPole and Sara Newman, as well as her significant other, Rick Anderson.

A time of gathering will begin at 2:00 p.m. with memorial services following at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, November 5, 2023, at Greenhill Baptist Church in Cedar Falls. Friends are invited to join the family for refreshments following the service.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

NOV 5. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Greenhill Baptist Church
4316 Cedar Heights Drive
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Memorial Service

NOV 5. 3:00 PM (CT)

Greenhill Baptist Church
4316 Cedar Heights Drive
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Tribute Wall

JP

“ Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers go out to Abe, Jeannie, Rosie, and the whole family. We only had a chance to know Jan and enjoy her musical talent the last few years. She was a beautiful person, inside and out. We enjoyed her vocal and piano talents so much. We're so thankful our paths crossed and thank God for entertainment she provided to us and so many. May God bless her soul and her memory.

Jan & Gary Parson - November 04, 2023 at 04:43 PM

KG

“ Kathy Branyon & David Goodman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janice Conrads.

Kathy Branyon & David Goodman - November 04, 2023 at 05:41 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janice Conrads.



November 04, 2023 at 05:41 AM

PC

“ Peggy Nielsen Chamberlain planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janice Conrads.

Peggy Nielsen Chamberlain - November 01, 2023 at 06:56 PM

PC

“Peggy Nielsen Chamberlain purchased the "Memories of you" garden stone for the family of Janice Conrads.



Peggy Nielsen Chamberlain - November 01, 2023 at 06:56 PM

PC

“Where do I start, Abe and Jeannie? You know my relationship with Jan began over 50 years ago when we were all so very young! We grew up together, the 4 of us and I consider you family which makes it so difficult because I can't be there on Sunday! I am so glad I was able to see all of you this summer and you will always be in my heart. Jan was a rock, an example to us, and a shining star. Now she really sparkles up there for all of us to see. R.I.P. dear Janny.

Peggy Nielsen Chamberlain - November 01, 2023 at 06:50 PM

AK

“I am struck down learning of Janice's passing. We sang together for 3 yrs in the HS girls' sextet and choir, and had German classes together. She was of course a musical genius, but more importantly, a kind and caring person who treated others with genuine heart-felt consideration. We lost a true role model and an "angel of music", Heaven has gained one.

Andrea kress - November 01, 2023 at 03:16 PM



Hello

Becca LaPole - November 07, 2023 at 10:43 AM



It was nice to speak with you at the visitation. I found videos and audio of Jan singing that I can share with you if you can reach out with your email address.

Becca LaPole - November 07, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ *I celebrate your life, dear Jan. I refuse to be mournful and morose, for you lived a life anyone could be proud of. Bursting with talent and energy, you used your abilities and winning smile to entertain, and to communicate joy through music. You were a good and loyal friend to many, many people. And you were loved and admired by all who knew you. What more could one ask? Yes, you will be missed, but when I think of you, I will smile and say, "This was a life to be celebrated, cherished and remembered. It was a good life, and we should all hope to be as happy and generous as Jan Conrads was. What a good example she set for us all."*

David Goodman - November 01, 2023 at 01:13 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Janice Conrads.*

October 31, 2023 at 03:13 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Janice Conrads.*



October 31, 2023 at 03:13 PM

MS

“ My heartfelt condolences to Jan's parents, sister, and extended family. May you find comfort in knowing how much Jan was loved by all who knew her, and highly esteemed as a musician. I have many fond memories of her from our days in Cincinnati, performing together at the conservatory, with Cincinnati Opera, at Forest View Gardens, and on occasional gigs around town.

Beyond being a superb musician, Jan was a beautiful person who always found something positive or humorous in every situation and something to love in every person. My heart is heavy that her life was cut short, but I rejoice in knowing that she had a full life, sharing her enormous talent with her audiences and fellow performances.

Rest well, dear Jan, free from pain and in the joyful knowledge that your musical gifts and gentle spirit made a difference in this world.

Matthew Spady - October 31, 2023 at 03:07 PM

DW

“ On behalf of friends from our UNI years and friends from Oakview in Conrad, Iowa I offer thoughts and prayers to Jan's family and loved ones. We all loved her and had such fun doing shows, singing and just being together. Rest in the thought that she is with our Lord.
Dixie Davis Walters

Dixie Davis Walters - October 31, 2023 at 10:44 AM

VS

“ *i will truly miss my dear friend Jan. played shows with Jan through the years. she was a delight to be around with a beautiful voice. when the music was playing and she knew it was how it should be she would just have the happiest smile across her face. I celebrate her life and the thought I will see her again someday puts a smile on my face for I know she new the Lord.*

Van Switzer - October 31, 2023 at 07:59 AM

DF

“ I remember Janice quite vividly from times together at Cedar Falls High School. She had the purest voice I think I've ever heard. Janice was always beautiful, kind, sweet, and so remarkably talented. Condolences to my classmate Rosie, her parents, and all the family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this tender time.

Dorothy E. Fischer - October 31, 2023 at 01:53 AM

BJ

“ My favorite memory of Jan was a year ago over at a Fertile town "Days". I help with a sound check and Jan's mike and piano weren't too soft, I asked for her to be turned up on both, and Wow she just Shined, whether it was Blue Bayou (my favorite), or a rousing Jerry Lee Rock & Roll!!! That's the first time I heard her rock it off-WOW, she was having a Good Time and it came thru Perfectly!! We chatted after about really getting to know each other, though we knew of each other for many years. Jan was a Beautiful LADY, fun, caring, talented, and she will be missed by many. But I have no doubt she will be playing on God's stage, free of pain and full of energy once again. Play it again, Jan, Once more with Feeling!! Rest in Peace dear Lady!

Barb Jones - October 30, 2023 at 11:18 PM

CP

“ My deepest sympathy and condolences to Abe, Jeanine, Rosie and Larry and Family. We go back many years. I was so sad to hear of Jan's passing. Jan touched so many lives and I am so grateful to have been a part of Jan's life, as well of each of Yours! Love, Clark

Clark W Petersen - October 30, 2023 at 10:19 PM

DM

“ Abe, Jeannie, Rose and family: I was in shocked to hear about the passing of Jan, she was a wonderful friend to all who knew her, she never had a bad word to say to anyone or about anyone..My heart hurts knowing she has gone home to her Heavenly Father to now play in the Heavenly band, she was so talented and Loved by so many..God please comfort Jan's family during this time of loss and the sorrow in the days and weeks ahead, God please send them strength and walk with them through their loss and let them know they are never alone when they walk with you .RIP my friend until we walk together with God someday..



Denny and Beth Mattke - October 30, 2023 at 10:15 PM

JH

“ Jan was a wonderful lady enjoy her as a friend and playing music she was so talented.she be missed

jack hoffman - October 30, 2023 at 07:00 PM