



Margaret Holzrichter

February 2, 1926 - October 7, 2022

Margaret (Rowlands) Holzrichter passed on October 7, 2022, at the age of 96. Margaret was born February 2, 1926, in Cincinnati, Ohio, third child and only daughter to Rev. Hugh and Mary (Rees) Rowlands. She graduated from Emporia High School (KS) and Emporia State Teacher's College in 1948 majoring in music education and performance as a vocalist and pianist. After graduation she moved to Dodge City, Kansas to teach music at the middle school. There she met and later married Elmer Holzrichter who was the art teacher. Together they guided students in the production of numerous musicals, started a family and managed a small shop of original art by Elmer.

Elmer and Margaret moved to Kearney in 1963 when Elmer joined the art faculty at Kearney State Teachers' College. Margaret took care of the family, taught music in elementary school and was active in Faculty Wives. Elmer and Margaret merged their lives as artists and educators, not only making a living at both, but making art out of living. Daily life was surrounded by visual and performing arts as they faithfully attended college and community events. They were ardent supporters of Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney Community Concert, and Nebraska Public Media. As children of the depression, they lived a sustainable lifestyle recycling and reimagining. Nothing was wasted and ordinary objects were repurposed and incorporated into art.

Margaret loved music. She was a member of the local music teacher's guild and a patron of the Merryman Performing Arts Center. She directed adult and children's choirs in church and accompanied many soloists on piano. Her greatest love was teaching children of all abilities to enjoy and play music. She was the first teacher in the area to adopt the Suzuki method of teaching piano. She hosted numerous recitals with a grand finale of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star performed by all students at once on multiple pianos.

Margaret loved her family near and far and was proud of her Welsh heritage visiting family in Wales several times. She was a leader for her children's 4-H clubs, Job's Daughters and church youth club. She often hosted her grandchildren in the summertime treating them to waffles of many colors.

Margaret lived a life of faith. As a daughter of a minister, she was raised in the church, singing, and accompanying many church services and programs. She was deeply engaged in the activities of First Presbyterian Church of Kearney including women's circles, Bible study, teaching Sunday School, hosting church events, and serving on the Session and Board of Deacons.

Margaret is preceded in death by her husband Elmer, and brothers Edwin (Flossy) and Hubert (Mildred). She is survived by her children Eric, Myfanwy (Marc) Carranza, Cathryn (Charles) Welch and Bronwyn (Gary) Fees, 11 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Margaret October 23, 2022, at 3:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Kearney. Memorials in Margaret's name can be sent to the First Presbyterian Church of Kearney or to the Kearney Family YMCA Creative Arts Program where she donated her piano for the continuing enrichment of children. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **23**. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4511 6th Ave.
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ Margaret Holzrichter

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ So grateful to Margaret for sharing her gift of music with such generosity and enthusiasm! She taught my three children for many years and encouraged me to teach music also.

Cynthia Archwamety - October 31, 2022 at 06:55 PM



“ To Margaret's family and dear friends, very sorry for your loss. She was my piano teacher for several years, and I cannot properly express my gratitude for pouring into my life on a weekly basis for years. As well for her (and Ed's) greeting me with what seemed to be sincere joy and interest when our paths crossed in the years after. Such a talented, lovely, and kind woman. She will be missed.

Heather - October 22, 2022 at 03:01 PM



“ Dear Cathy and all of Margaret's family, Your mom was a wonderful lady. I will never forget the Birthday party she hosted for you, Cathy, (I think we were in Junior High) where we had delicious homemade pizza and went to the Cowsills concert! (My first ever music concert!) Your mom was such a lovely and gracious lady. I'm so glad I got to know her. My heart and prayers are with you at this sad time. I know how hard it is to lose our moms. Love, Karen Helleberg

Karen J Helleberg - October 17, 2022 at 04:19 PM

AN

“ To Eric, Cathy, Myfannwy, Bronwyn and families at this sad time.

Your mother was proud of her Welsh heritage. Our mother and Margaret corresponded for many years across the ocean, keeping the link alive in their generation.

We enjoyed her visits to us in Wales and hearing her Welsh phrases. She was kind, full of life, vitality and fun to be with.

With our love to you all,
David, John, Ann and families.

AnnJohnson - October 17, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Holzrichter.



October 17, 2022 at 02:44 PM

US

“ Uncles J R & Edward Saldivar purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Margaret Holzrichter.



Uncles J R & Edward Saldivar - October 15, 2022 at 07:04 PM

JM

“ Thank you for your patience with me, instilling in me a love for music.

J Ritchie Morrow - October 12, 2022 at 10:01 AM

CW

“ *Mrs. holzrichter was choir director at my church. She taught me slot about music I have great memories of her. Prayers for her family*

carol wendland - October 11, 2022 at 07:33 PM

ML

“ *To the Holzrichter Family-
Thinking of all of you at this time with our
love.
The Lantis Family,
Mary Ellen, Cammy, Wendy, Sandy and
Travis*



Mary Ellen Lantis - October 10, 2022 at 06:33 PM

RL

“ I was lucky to be a piano student of Mrs. Holtzrichter's for 8 years - 1st thru 8th grade. I loved learning from her. The only reason I quit was my parents made me choose - I was involved in dance and sports and school... there just wasn't enough time for it all. It was a difficult choice but she was very kind and understanding.

I loved how she spoke, her patience and delight in helping me progress. When I hear the description, "her eyes were dancing", I picture Mrs. Holzrichter's eyes. Her influence remains with me to this day; I love and support the arts in my own community. I was always intrigued by all the art she had in her home and wish I could share what treasures I've found - I know she would love them!

I also remember seeing how patient and kind she was with an autistic boy my age. He was very talented but needed space and time to do things a certain way. In later years, I was able to participate in a group of students at school who acted as a support group of sorts. I wonder if I would've felt equipped to do that without her example. I do believe it helped.

Margaret Holtzrichter taught me more than piano. She taught joy of accomplishment, of setting and achieving goals. She taught manners and cultural curiosity. She made me feel special.

I regret not taking time to seek her out on my visits back to Kearney. I wish her friends and family well. - Renee' Hyde Leon

Renee Hyde Leon - October 08, 2022 at 01:51 PM

GC

Dear Myfanwy and Family,

My memory also involves a birthday party (yours), which included hotdog pizza! It was delicious and certainly novel to me. I was in awe of your dad's striking artwork displayed throughout your home, yet the ambiance was of welcome and comfort. Your mom was so friendly and embraced our group of wacky teenaged girls. I don't remember much more of the party, but those few bits made an impact. May your family rejoice in the wonderful woman your mom was! Take care, sweet friend. —Gay Correll

Gay Correll - October 22, 2022 at 01:58 PM