



Elaine M. Ostrander

December 22, 1935 - September 18, 2025

Elaine M. Ostrander, born December 22, 1935, died September 18, 2025.
Daughter of Paul

and Marie Kousoulas, preceded in death by her parents, husband Tom H.
Ostrander and

brother James Kousoulas. She is survived by daughters Sarah E. Brown and
Judy Kessler,

grandchildren Scott G. Brown (Lesley), Derek A. Kessler and Erin F.G.
Kessler (Alan Porter),

and great grandchildren Magnolia and Masie Brown.

A native of Mt. Vernon, Ohio Elaine attended The Ohio State University
earning a Bachelor

of Music in Performance, a Bachelor of Music Education and a Masters in
Woodwind Pedagogy. Elaine was the first female to serve as principal
clarinetist of the OSU Concert Band whose membership consisted of the best
musicians in the school of music, under the direction of Donald McGinnis.

While at OSU, Elaine served as Librarian for the marching band where she met her husband, Tom. They were married for 56 years.

She and her husband Tom opened Colonial Music in 1964 which expanded to nine locations by 2006 when they sold the business. She and her daughters soon opened JET Music in Mt. Vernon and continued the tradition of helping music teachers throughout central Ohio.

A pioneer and great example as one of the first female band directors, Elaine became the

Band Director at Danville Schools always producing outstanding bands. Nearly 50% of the

student body participated in band classes which included Marching, Concert and Jazz Band,

as well as Clarinet Choir. Elaine was also director of the Worthington Civic Band for

nearly 40 years travelling and performing with the group in many European countries.

She received numerous awards. Some of those awards include: Ohio Band Directors Hall of

Fame, God and Country (Brass Band of Columbus), Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame, The Ohio State

School of Music Distinguished Alumnus, The Ohio State University Script Ohio Award, and

Ohio Music Education Association Distinguished Service Award.

Elaine was a person willing to share, help and serve as a mentor for band directors

throughout Ohio. Her legacy will be a part of school bands for many years to come.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 9. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Memorial Service

OCT 9. 7:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Tribute Wall

BO

“ A wonderful lady and a true friend too our band in the 60s . She told me to listen to a song and I did " stranger on the shore " I did and it has become a favorite of mine, I should mention that it is a clarinet piece . Bless you my dear friend

Bobdavis - October 25, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Elaine M. Ostrander.



October 09, 2025 at 10:42 AM

JB

“ Janine B. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elaine M. Ostrander.

Janine B. - October 08, 2025 at 07:16 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear about your mom Judy and Sarah. What a beautiful life she lived and a tribute to the band students she taught as well as the instruments she was able to provide through being an owner of Colonial Music. Prayers to you and your family as make it through this difficult time.

Janine Bock - October 08, 2025 at 07:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elaine M. Ostrander.*



October 08, 2025 at 05:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Elaine M. Ostrander.

October 08, 2025 at 05:58 PM



“ *Elaine was a pioneer and pillar in the musical instrument industry. Her accomplishments as an entrepreneur and business owner are celebrated. We truly admire her integrity and character and generosity. The bar she set for herself and everyone around her was high. She will be missed. Prayers go out to all of her family.*

Buckeye Brass & Winds - Rob Phillips - October 08, 2025 at 12:09 PM



“ *Buckeye Brass & Winds purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Elaine M. Ostrander.*



Buckeye Brass & Winds - October 08, 2025 at 11:57 AM

BW

“ Buckeye Brass & Winds planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elaine M. Ostrander.

Buckeye Brass & Winds - October 08, 2025 at 11:57 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Elaine M. Ostrander.



October 08, 2025 at 11:07 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Elaine M. Ostrander.

October 08, 2025 at 11:07 AM

JC

“ Mrs. "O" was a very important mentor in my life. I learned the importance of hard work, striving for a high level of excellence, teaching me leadership all while making it fun. Any of us who had the privilege of her mentorship will carry this honor for the rest of our lives. God Speed Mrs. O!!

John Crow - October 07, 2025 at 07:34 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Elaine M. Ostrander.*



October 07, 2025 at 04:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Elaine M. Ostrander.

October 07, 2025 at 04:35 PM



“ 122nd Army Band Family purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Elaine M. Ostrander.



122nd Army Band Family - October 04, 2025 at 01:03 PM



“ Max Treier,

I have so many wonderful memories of Elaine that it would be impossible for me to pick out one or two. Elaine was a wonderful Music Education and Business Coclque.

Max Treier - October 02, 2025 at 10:51 AM

RS

“ Sarah and Judy you have my sincere sympathy and condolences for the loss of your mother. Elaine was a truly great lady. It was my privilege to get to know your mother over several years. She was a true mentor, colleague and friend to me. I valued her many years of experience and drew on her expertise many time. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your families.
Susan and Richard Sherrick

Richard Sherrick - September 25, 2025 at 02:36 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Elaine M. Ostrander.



September 24, 2025 at 12:30 PM

PF

“ Pat, John, Ruth & all the CROW Family purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Elaine M. Ostrander.



Pat, John, Ruth & all the CROW Family - September 24, 2025 at 09:38 AM

PF

“ Pat, John, Ruth & all the CROW Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elaine M. Ostrander.

Pat, John, Ruth & all the CROW Family - September 24, 2025 at 09:38 AM

DH

“ Sarah and Judy,

I'm sending up many prayers for comfort for you and your families.

Your mom Elaine was a remarkable lady. She was very skilled and talented, she had boundless drive and energy, and, most importantly, she was always completely honest. Her fun-loving spirit and her deep love for her family and friends is something that I will always remember and cherish.

Yet, even with all of her many accomplishments, she remained one of the most humble people I knew.

I was always very honored and proud to call her a special friend and colleague for decades. We were all lucky to have her in our lives.

Dennis Hayslett

Dr. Dennis Hayslett - September 23, 2025 at 03:52 AM

WA

“ Westerville Colonial Music/Music & Arts purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Elaine M. Ostrander.



Westerville Colonial Music/Music & Arts - September 22, 2025 at 12:40 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Elaine M. Ostrander.* ”



September 20, 2025 at 06:13 PM