



Mark Werling

December 13, 1946 - December 19, 2025

Mark Werling was born in Bloomington, Indiana, to Reinhold Herman August Albert Werling and Kathryn Geraldine Werling (née Glover), both accomplished musicians who met while studying at the School of Music at Indiana University. Music was the foundation of Mark's life from the very beginning, and it was his father, Reinhold — a trained musician and lifelong music educator — who played a profound role in shaping Mark's love for the piano and his understanding of music as both discipline and expression.

Mark's mother, a skilled pianist, also nurtured his early development, and taught him how to play, together his parents created a home where music was not only taught, but lived. Mark's talent emerged early and unmistakably. As a student at Roosevelt Junior High School, he performed in a school variety show where his ability set him apart, leaving a lasting impression on all who saw him play.

After high school, Mark briefly attended The Ohio State University, but his path was already clear. He immersed himself in the Columbus music scene, performing professionally at jazz clubs and nightspots throughout the city. During these years, he formed deep friendships with fellow musicians — horn players, bassists, drummers — and became a familiar and respected presence in the local jazz community. Mark played at nearly every major venue in Columbus, including performances at the Christopher Inn on Broad

Street, and later toured throughout the Midwest with a jazz group.

Mark was not only an exceptional pianist but also a vocalist of great sensitivity. Those who heard him sing often remembered his rendition of “A House Is Not a Home” by Burt Bacharach, a song that reflected both his musical elegance and emotional depth.

Seeking to further his musical growth, Mark enrolled for a time at North Texas University (now the University of North Texas) near Dallas, a school renowned for its jazz program. His journey eventually led him to enlist in the United States Army, where he served as a member of the Army Band, continuing his lifelong dedication to music while in service. After his honorable discharge, Mark returned to Columbus, Ohio, where he made his home for the remainder of his life.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents, Reinhold and Kathryn Werling; his beloved sister, Lauren Rae Werling; and his brother, Thomas Kurt Werling.

He is survived by his brother, Franz Karol Werling; his sister, Lisa Renee Miller; and his brother, Dana (Peggy) Werling; and his Step Sister, Debbie (Tim) Lane. He is also survived by his adopted niece, Jacqueline (Curtis) Boothe; his adopted grandchildren, Michael Huston, Christopher Wright, and Anthony Wright; and by the many, many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and the “adopted” God-children and grandchildren that Mark loved so deeply and who will forever miss him.

Mark’s life was defined by music, connection, and quiet generosity. He lived not for recognition, but for the joy of playing, sharing, and belonging to the community he loved. His presence will be deeply missed, and his music will be remembered long after the last note has faded.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life honoring Mark will be held on Saturday, January 10th, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Mozart's, located at 4784 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio 43214. Friends, family, and all whose lives were touched by Mark are welcome to gather, remember, and celebrate a life shaped by music and love.

In Lieu of Flowers

This is a difficult time for Mark's loved ones. Unfortunately, neither Mark nor his family were prepared for his sudden passing, and any support to help with final expenses and outstanding bills would be deeply appreciated.

Donations may be made at the following link:

<https://gofund.me/19c4d2f4f>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

JAN **10**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Mozart's
4784 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43214

Tribute Wall



“ We need more kind souls like Mark in this world. My husband and I used to frequent Mozart's restaurant. When we entered, Mark would play my husband's favorites; "Pachabel in D and "Eine kleine Nachtmusik. On one visit, I told him my favorite was Claude Debussy's "Clair De Lune". At the time, he did not know how to play it, but on my next return to Mozart, he immediately began to play this perfect piece of music--and play it beautifully. Every subsequent visit, when Mark spotted us, he would play both songs. Mark played at our wedding. He was a rare treasure. Our condolences to his family. Karen & Michael Sellaroli

Karen Metzger - January 10 at 10:15 AM

VA

“ Mark, I remember the first day that you walked into the sugar shack asking if you can play my old piano it was out of tune that you had someone tune it up for you and you played it for many years at the sugar sack . You even taught all my boys how to play the piano. And I remember the old black car you had that you were trying to teach the boys how to drive we will be missing you love, Manny and Val 🙏🙏💜

Val Acunalopez - December 30, 2025 at 02:38 AM

SG

“ I never met Mark in person, but about 15 years ago we were both in an online piano discussion group. I remember Mark as someone who was very generous with his encouragement to younger players. I have never forgotten Mark's kind words to me. I'm sad to hear of his passing and I offer my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

Steve Gorman - December 29, 2025 at 09:18 PM

BC

“ Mark and I were good friends in High School and played in a Rock and Roll band called *The Renegades*. He was such fun to be around. As everyone says he was the best musician I have ever known. We had a blast in the R&R band and he would hear a song once and performed in perfectly. R.I.P. Mark. God bless you and your family.

Bob Castle - December 29, 2025 at 07:11 PM

LM

“ We always enjoyed our family get togethers when we were all in one state. Especially watching you play at Mozart's. Thank you for always making me feel so happy that you were proud to call me your little sister. Your musical talent is a treasure and will never be forgotten. Love you always Mark and miss you ~Lisa Werling Miller



Lisa Miller - December 29, 2025 at 06:31 PM

DW

“ Always loved the times we got for road trips to see our sister Lauren before she passed and our lunch dates for good conversations, but nothing better than our flight to California to see your brothers. You'll be missed brother. Love you Dana

Dana Werling - December 26, 2025 at 08:29 AM

CS

“ Dad you were a great inspiration to many... your truly a great musician you played the piano better than anyone I've known we've had some great times.. I thank for being apart of my life. I love you and I will always keep you in my heart.... love your son Christopher Estell

Christopher Estell Sr - December 24, 2025 at 04:18 PM