



Don Francis Morrissey

August 6, 1950 - February 27, 2018

Don Francis Morrissey, passed away, suddenly on February 27, 2018 at his residence. Don was a retiree of Thomas Jefferson Medical Center. He has been involved in the mummer's parade for many years, parading with and writing music for many of the groups in the String Band Association. He most recently joined the Quaker City String Band and was warmly welcomed by many of the students that he taught to play music. Don had a warm smile for everyone he met. He is the beloved husband of 33 years to Arlene (nee: Smith). Father of Christian (Dawn) Mason and grandfather of Jake and Zachary. Brother of Thomas Morrissey and Kathleen (James) McAlonan. He is survived by his in laws; Betty Edwards and Joe (Ginger) Smith, nieces, nephews, cousins and many good friends. Relatives, friend's, members of the Quaker City String Band and String Band Association are invited to his visitation Friday eve 6-9pm and again on Saturday 8-9:30am at the Murphy Ruffenach, Brian W. Donnelly Funeral Home, 3rd & Wolf Sts. Funeral Mass 10am, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Burial private. Contributions in his name can be made to help with final expenses.

Comments



“ My sincere condolences to Arlene and all the Morrissey family members. Don was an inspiration for me both musically and as a true gentlemen and leader. I met Don when I joined Avalon String Band in 1997. I was a young kid and shocked when he asked me to be his Drill Assistant. Not only was I humbled and surprised of the offer, but in total awe that this legendary and talented man would ask me to be his assistant. Don proved to be a great mentor in so many ways and I always enjoyed our conversations through the years. He will always remain an example of a true gentlemen and his memory will thrive for all of those fortunate to have called him friend. RIP Don, God Bless and welcome to your rightful place in Heaven.

Jonathan Connolly - March 02, 2018 at 05:27 PM



“ Don and I go way back. I met Don in grade school, St. Frances Xavier in Fairmount. We lived a few blocks away from each other and although I was a year ahead in school but we were both in boy scouts. Funny, i was just thinking of those times recently as I watched the opening scene of the movie Patton. Don's brother Tom played that very same Reveille at our scout meetings. Musical talent ran in the family! Don and I both started taking music lessons at Roman Catholic in the early sixties. We later were in the Bishop Neumann HS band together and eventually South Philly String Band .Don was always friendly and personable, had a quiet sense of humor and as we all know, possessed great musical skills both as a player and as an arranger. We were able to get reacquainted just a few years back when I joined the Pennsport String Band. Naturally, Don was the arranger. He was well liked and respected by all who knew him and will be sorely missed. My sincerest condolences to his family and close friends.

Tim Ward

Timothy Ward - March 02, 2018 at 11:49 AM



“ I will never forget taking my first ever music test at the South Philly String Band Club. I was 8 years old, and my (Vito) alto sax was bigger than me. I entered the music room as nervous as could be, and there stood Don. As I began playing the Scarecrows theme from 1981 (slowly may I ad), Don just stood there smiling, which gave me a sense of comfort. After the test, he smiled at me and laughed, and then he said "Good Job Kid". That's the kind of man he was. Just a good person.... Don, You are now jamming with my Father, Joe Lippi, and all the mummies that you touched. Thank You for everything that you did for me, and the Avalon String Band when we re-organized in 1983. May God Bless You and your family.
Daniel Coccia

Daniel Coccia - March 02, 2018 at 07:27 AM



“ Arlene,

I was saddened to learn of the death of Don. There are so many things that should be said at this time but no words seem adequate. I met Don, 37 years ago with the re-organization of the Avalon String Band. I have many fond memories of the time that I got to spend with Don just like all of the other String Band musicians of all different talents and abilities. I enjoyed his musical arrangements, his passion and talent to arrange. I like many have had experienced Don's talents not only to arrange music but to teach us to play it the way meant us to play it. Many String bands will honor Don by continuing to play his arrangements. One day we shall all meet again. God bless you my friend.

Jim Kimrey

James Kimrey - March 01, 2018 at 09:59 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Don Francis Morrissey.



March 01, 2018 at 05:43 PM



“ Glad to have gotten to reconnect to Don over the past few years in Facebook. I remember well visiting Uncle Walt and Aunt Ann’s home in Philly as a youngster and playing stick ball in the street with Don and friends. Rest In Peace my dear Cousin till we meet in heaven. Prayers for the family.

Francis Egan - March 01, 2018 at 03:16 PM



“ Arlene So sorry to hear about your loss. Don was a great musician and more importantly an awesome person. My wife and I had the privilege to get to know Don when he was director of the Broomall Stringband. Don became our leader the moment he started directing our band. We all loved Don because he turned our band around and we all seemed to improve musically. Don demanded our very best because I really believe that he saw our potential. He was always a gentleman and treated all of us with kindness and respect. We all loved him for the great teacher and musician that he was but more than anything else we loved him for the great person he was. There will never be another like him. I am so thankful for the wonderful memories that I have of Don. His legacy of music, arrangements, friendships, and mentoring will never be forgotten. Well done good and faithful servant.

Gus and Lynne Gall

GUS GALL - March 01, 2018 at 10:48 AM



“ Arlene ,with heartfelt sympathy of your beloved Don . We all are heartbroken for you . Don has touched so many of us throughout his years in String Band . For we all have grown musically With all of his hundreds of songs that he arranged . Don made us better musicians , he pushed us until it was right , even if he had to get mad . Which he did ,then we knew next week we better shape up and pay attention and get it right . Our memories with Don will be cherished , his music will be played as an everlasting tribute as the legend that he became to all of us .
God Bkess ,
Renee (Evans/ Duffy
Victoria Magee
John Evans

Renee -Evans/Duffy - February 28, 2018 at 10:33 PM



“ Arlene,
My deepest and sincere condolences to yourself and your family, Don was a great arranger, a great teacher and mentor, an excellent sax player, but over and above all that he was a great friend to myself and my wife Lynn, he will be greatly missed.

God Bless you and your family.

Don and Lynn Heritage

Don Heritage - March 01, 2018 at 07:43 PM



“ My heart is truly broken. I will miss you so much cuz in law. Will treasure the years of memories at Avalon and Hegeman. So many laughs and fun times. Fly high our angel. God bless. You will be missed. Xo

Karen Robison - February 28, 2018 at 07:47 PM



“ So sorry to hear this sad news
Char Morrison xo

Char - February 28, 2018 at 06:24 PM