



Robert Bradford Dean

February 2, 1958 - August 6, 2021

Robert Bradford Dean, age 63, of Collinsville, Illinois, formerly of Edwardsville, passed away on Friday, August 6, 2021, at his residence. He was born February 2, 1958, in Highland, Illinois, the son of the late George & Mary Lou (Dennison) Dean. Robert is survived by two brothers, James Dean & wife Sheila of Clearwater, Florida, and George Dean II of Edwardsville; and three sisters, Margo Dean & husband Alvin Deibert of Edwardsville, Mary Dean Pendergrass & husband Nick of Alton, and Helen "Scotty" Moorman of Chicago. One sister, Martha "Marty" Dean, preceded him in death.

Robert graduated with a B.A. from the St. Louis Conservatory of Music, where he studied under George Silfies, principal clarinetist of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Robert was a member of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra for 4 years before moving to Europe, where he traveled and performed in a variety of classical and theatrical venues.

Robert lived for many years in Hamburg, Germany, where he taught classical clarinet in the German (Oehler) system. He was also a teacher of jazz saxophone. During his years in Hamburg, Robert was a student of American jazz saxophonist Herb Geller.

He will be cremated according to his wishes and a celebration of life will be held on Sunday, August 15, at the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability at SIUE (Fuller Dome). Robert will be buried at the Dean Hill Cemetery in Canfield, Ohio. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials to the Edwardsville Community Symphony at P.O. Box 943 Edwardsville, IL. Weber & Rodney Funeral Home in Edwardsville is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be expressed online at weberfuneralhome.com.

Events

AUG **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM

15

SIUE Center for Spirituality and Sustainability
Edwardsville, IL, US, 62025

Comments



“ Bob and I were fellow musicians and friends in HS, and I'm sorry to hear of his passing.

Carolyn McCall Catalano - August 11, 2021 at 11:43 AM



“ I don't know where to start here except to say that I am deeply saddened and shocked to learn of Bob's passing. Those of you who were in high school band with me (EHS) will definitely remember Bob Dean. He was a superb clarinetist and saxophonist. Bob was a couple years ahead of me in school. I first heard Bob play alto sax in the EHS Stage Band (jazz band) during the '73/'74 school year, when I was still in junior high (8th grade). He was a sophomore in high school then, but already playing lead alto. I, growing up, had heard some of my parents' big band records, and really enjoyed them, but Bob Dean was the one main individual who REALLY got me hooked on playing in a big band. I can honestly say that. Well, on that one stage band concert that I had mentioned a few sentences back Bob took a lead on the number "Tuxedo Junction" and just blew me away. I was hooked from then on, with regard to Bob's alto sax playing. I idolized many sax players along the years but I can truly say that Bob Dean was the first sax player, at least on a local level, that I first truly idolized. I wanted to be Bob Dean when I started high school band (LOL!), especially in stage band (which I was fortunate enough to make during my freshman year of high school). I performed with the high school stage band, along with the concert/symphonic bands, etc. during my four years in high school but stage band was ALWAYS "the bomb" for me. Much of that due to Bob. And, of course, I always had to keep in mind that Bob, first and foremost, was a clarinetist, but sure could play a WHOLE LOT of saxophone as well! R.I.P., my friend! Heaven just gained another superb musician! You will sorely be missed!

Jerry Cobetto - August 10, 2021 at 10:44 AM



“ Jerry,
Thank you so very much for that, it really touched me.

As we go through life, we often times have no idea of the people we have influenced, and in what way.

P.S. Google "Herb Geller", (the guy that Bob studied with in Hamburg). THAT cat had quite the life. Wow.

-George Dean

George Dean - August 10, 2021 at 06:27 PM



“ Thanks, George, for the kind words! Your brother will definitely be missed! He influenced me SO much! Yes, I will Google Herb Geller! Seems like I've heard of him.

Jerry Cobetto - August 12, 2021 at 11:36 PM



“ You're very welcome, George! I can't even begin to explain how much of a big influence your brother was on me. He will be missed by many! Oh, and yes, I will Google Herb Geller! It seems like I've heard about him before.

Jerry Cobetto - August 13, 2021 at 12:26 PM



“ Sympathy to the family of Robert Bob Dean. I went to junior High school and Highschool with him he will be missed many good memories of Bob.

Ken Krumeich - August 09, 2021 at 04:12 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Bob. I've thought of him many times over the years. He was a talented musician. He will be missed.

Kathy - August 10, 2021 at 12:07 AM



“ About 10 years ago Bob and I played duets for the clarinet, playing Mozart's duos for horn, adaptations of arias for 2 clarinets, and other repertoire. He as a consummate professional of course had mastered basic musical elements--like counting, dynamics, technique--that I as a mostly self-taught clarinetist struggled with. Trying to keep up with his playing, even on simple duets, helped me improve my playing enormously. I really appreciate the time I spent with him, his capacity for forbearance, and his skill. I know that Bob struggled with health and self-care. His siblings were there for him, even when he might resist their efforts. I am very sorry for their loss.

John Harvey - August 11, 2021 at 12:07 PM



“ I'd like to have listened to you two play. Forbearance? We're missing him greatly.
-Margo Dean

Margo Dean - August 16, 2021 at 01:17 AM