



Frances Estes

January 16, 1931 - March 25, 2021

Frances Estes passed away peacefully early in the morning, March 25th, at City Hospital at White Rock Lake. The cause was injuries resulting from a series of falls. Her death came as a surprise to her family and many friends, because of her fitness – and ageless, vibrant personality. Further, Frances clearly rejected the concept of retirement, although she was years past the accepted age to slow down. She was known throughout the Metroplex as a professional oboist and English horn player, having played with the Fort Worth Symphony earlier in her career, and continued to perform at smaller venues until her death. She was married to Ed Estes, an equally talented professional musician, who passed away in 2005. Together, they were an ideally matched pair who brought thousands into their world through music and teaching. They were beloved.

In addition to her music profession, Frances taught second grade for over thirty years at Caldwell Elementary in Garland while Ed was performing and directing bands at several other schools. Many, many, students, whose lives were touched by Ed and Frances over the years, stayed in touch. She was a member of Casa Emmanuel United Methodist Church and lived in the same home in Dallas for sixty-five years surrounded by neighbors who treated her as they would their own families – a relationship which she fully reciprocated.

Frances was mentored by Thomas Stacy of the New York Philharmonic orchestra and she participated for several decades in his professional English horn seminar. Frances was an avid chamber music performer who collaborated with many fine musician friends. Three groups of lengthy association are The Dallas Arts District Ensemble, The Dallas Camerata Woodwind Quintet, and the Les Amis Chamber Ensemble. Professional Music Associations are Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Fraternity, the Musical Arts Club, and Pro Musica. As a church musician she contributed to the services of many congregations and most often at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

France Halstead was born in Ft. Worth, Texas, and was raised predominantly in Cisco by her grandparents whom she called “Mommy and Daddo.” She was a graduate of Texas

Christian University in Fort Worth, where she met Ed. The pair lived the remainder of their lives in Dallas, pursuing their four careers as musicians and teachers, active in their community and church, and frequenting the theater and classical music world. A happy life.

Frances is survived by her cousin, Celia Cameron of Ennis, cousins Trish Yeates, Jan Staffileno, Linda Barclay Newton, Winston Lewis Barclay, a nephew, Dick Estes, and a niece, Elizabeth Estes Baldwin, their families, and a wide circle of friends. She recently lost her two housemates, which she would have wanted to mention, cats Angel and Pasha.

Frances lived and demonstrated a philosophy which she passed on frequently to others, G P S:

G – Gratitude. Realize all that you have to be grateful for and show it.

P – Present Moment. Stay in the present moment, not dwelling on the past or worrying about the future.

S – Stillness and Smile. Stay quiet while realizing smiles are contagious.

A memorial service will be held for this remarkable and ageless woman at Christ Lutheran Church, 3001 Lovers Lane, at 2 PM on April 12th. Please park and enter on the Dublin Street side. There will be no graveside service. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the charity of your choice, Operation Kindness, Musical Arts Club Scholarship Fund, or to Cat Partners at Southwestern University

Events

APR 12 **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

Christ Lutheran Church
3001 Lovers Ln, Dallas, TX, US, 75225

Comments



“ Frances has been a dear friend since we met at a Stacy English horn seminar in 1990. Her support and encouragement over the years helped me gain confidence and become the professional player that I was. She always had a smile and inspiring story to share and we kept in touch until February of 2021. I was fortunate to visit Ed and Frances several times when I was on business trips to Dallas. We'd recently exchanged cat calendars and she sent me a book Stillness Speaks which I'll always treasure. Her love and warmth will guide me forever. Her Stacy seminar cat survey was a highlight each year.

You are always in my heart and I'll miss you and our phone calls very much, Frances. Keep playing and caring for cats on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge. We all love you so much.

Kathy Caldwell - April 16 at 02:49 PM



“ Frances was one of the kindest people I've ever known. We became friends through Tom Stacy's English horn seminars and learned early on that we shared a great love for cats.

I know that her family and her innumerable friends are remembering her as a person who spread joy everywhere she went.

Ann Marie Bingham - April 13 at 07:14 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frances Estes.



April 10 at 11:03 AM