



Dr. Sheryl Kathleen Murphy-Manley

October 5, 2017

Sheryl Murphy-Manley, born in Kansas in 1962 to mother Sandra and father Zatis Murphy, passed away peacefully on the morning of Thursday, October 5th, 2017. She was a Ph.D., Professor of Musicology and Coordinator of the Musicology Area in the SHSU School of Music. Her family reminds us that “her courageous and very inspiring battle against cancer was marked by dedication, determination and the commitment to live every day to the fullest.” She will be greatly missed by her family as well as by many colleagues, friends, and students.

Dr. Murphy-Manley joined the music faculty at Sam Houston State University in 2001 after having taught in the undergraduate music department of the University of Texas at Austin for four years as an Assistant Instructor and in the Continuing Education Program as a Lecturer for ten years. She held two music degrees from Sam Houston State University: Bachelor of Music Education (1985) and Master of Music in Conducting (1987), studying with Dr. Bev Henson. Her musicology major professor at SHSU was Dr. Harry Mallard. Sheryl was an accomplished flutist, having studied with Jan Cole, Patty Mills, and Beth Blackstone Wiehe. She studied voice with Professor Al Autry. She completed the Ph.D. in Musicology (1996) at the University of Texas at Austin, which included studies with professors Dr. John Grubbs and Dr. Hanns-Berthold Dietz.

Her love of music began with playing the flute in band in the sixth grade and continued throughout her high school years. She enjoyed singing and was a member of school and church choirs, also singing with small groups and playing the flute for various occasions. She graduated from Cy-Fair High School in Cypress, Texas in 1980. After completing her degrees at SHSU, she taught music in two elementary schools in the Klein Independent School District and continued teaching private flute lessons for several years prior to beginning her doctoral studies.

Dr. Murphy-Manley was a contributor to *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (ed. Stanley Sadie, W. W. Norton, 2001) and her research in 18th-century music through her dissertation, "The Sacred Music of Gian Francesco de Majo (1732-1770)" has offered music historians editions of mid-18th-century Italian music that had previously been available only in manuscript. She has presented papers at regional, national, and international society meetings on various topics including 18th-century Italian sacred music, the 19th-century musical borrowing of Joachim Raff, diegetic and non-diegetic sound in game music, extended instrumental techniques in 20th-century American music, and pedagogy.

She served two terms as secretary-treasurer for the American Musicological Society-Southwest Chapter (Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma), and served as President of the Chapter in 2015-16. She recently served as the managing editor of the American Musicological Society Southwest Chapter Conference Proceedings, and as an associate editor of *Inquiry: Critical Thinking Across the Disciplines*.

In 2012, she produced *Newton D. Strandberg: Essays and Sketches* (Parma Recordings, Rayello Records), an extended-content CD-ROM which includes performances by the London Symphony, the New York Chamber Symphony, and the Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra. This is a tribute to Dr. Newton

Strandberg, longtime SHSU Professor of Music Theory and Composition. More recently, she began the creation of a thematic catalog for the works of Newton Strandberg. Also, the third edition of her book, "A Concise and Friendly Guide to Music History", was released in 2015 by Cengage Publishing. Among other involvements in her life, Dr. Murphy-Manley loved to write poetry and was a prolific painter for most of her adult life. Her work is on display at her personal website: <https://murphymanley.github.io/>

Above all, her greatest love was her 17 year old son, Carter, followed by the love for her students and the teaching profession to which she dedicated her life. She is survived by that special son Carter Manley, her parents Sandra and John Stites, her brother Robert Murphy, her sister Charlene Murphy Huskey, and Charlene's children Elizabeth Macy, Stephanie Dick, and Joshua Huskey, as well as a great-niece and great-nephew. Additional surviving family includes her uncle Stan and Patty Stieben and their daughter Sarah, several other cousins, and step-family members Jeff and Sally Stites, Steve and Mitzi Stites, and Kim and Matt Bloom. She was preceded in death by her father Zatis Murphy and her aunt Janea Gordon.

Donations may be made payable to a savings account in the name of Carter A. Manley c/o Eric Garcia (on memo line of check please write SAVINGS ACCOUNT) at BBVA Compass Bank, 1410 Brazos Drive, Huntsville, Texas 77320.

Memorial celebration will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at James & Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center in David & Grettle Payne Concert Hall.

Memorial condolences may be made to the family at www.shmfh.com.
Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home – Huntsville, 936-291-7300

Previous Events

Memorial Celebration

NOV 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

James & Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center in the David & Grettie Payne Concert Hall at SHSU

815 17th Street

Huntsville, TX 77340

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Sheryl Kathleen Murphy-Manley*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Sheryl and I met as students at SHSU, and fellow flute players. I will never forget the kind, warm heart she was always willing to share with everyone. I am so happy that we were able to reconnect, and get together after she returned to Sam. I count myself blessed to have had the opportunity to have a friend like her. She spoke often of her family, and of course Carter. Her love of them was so evident and everlasting. My heart goes out to all, and my love for Sheryl will continue. She has shown many the true meaning of love of life.*

Mary White - October 19, 2017 at 09:31 PM

JR

“ Dear family:

Please except my heartfelt condolences and words of comfort, when I love one passes the grief and pain can be unbearable we can always turn to the primary source of comfort our Heavenly Father.

Isaiah 51:12, " I myself am the one comforting you." Our Father of tender mercy he feels and understands your pain your can pour your heart out to him in pair.

Dr. Murphy-Manley will be truly be missed by so many people especially her loving family. That God promote in his word sorrow and pain will pass please take comfort in his word they are faithful and true.

May your family find comfort and peace in he God of all comfort and the memories that you shared. 🌸🌸

Josephine Russell - October 16, 2017 at 07:18 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Dr. Sheryl Kathleen Murphy-Manley.



October 14, 2017 at 02:04 PM

JR

“As a sophomore entering Dr. Murphy-Manley’s class, I remember her telling us that the only way we would do well in her class is if we applied ourselves and thoroughly learned the material. I’m pretty sure she’s the only class I’ve ever rejoiced when I got a b. Ha!

I can remember many late nights at the library with friends studying for “Murphy-Manley tests.” I even now will tell my high school students how she was the teacher who taught me what real preparation looked like. She was always thorough and never let her standards settle, even though we would moan and groan through the whole process. But, through her work she taught every student that came through what the love of something looked like. She loved each and every one of us too much to “go easy on us” or to “give us a break.”

She loved us so much she was going to make us do things the right way. The semester that the orchestra and our brass quintet took the China tour, I was the SA for the marching band, in all ensembles, giving a senior recital, doing ed block, and also taking 20 hours AND preparing this China tour with our brass Q5 and the orchestra. She caught my arm walking by her classroom one day said, “wow, you look stressed.” and made me go get a coffee with her. She let me unload everything that was stressing me out. And replied simply with, “you have two options, suck it up, make a list, get a bigger plate, and start checking things off that list....or whine and be stressed....which one is it going to be?”

I learned so much from her I still use in my life everyday both as a musician/educator and as a father and husband. She is one of the best people I will ever know. The world is a better place because of her and I hope she is sitting across from Lenny right now shooting the breeze. We all love you.

Jason Robb - October 10, 2017 at 09:46 PM

ML

“ I can't remember the exact date I met Sheryl, It was so long ago that Carter, her son, was still in a carSeat, and now he is 17! I sold them a house and from then on, we became friends! I watched Carter grow up and found out how talented & smart Sheryl was, in so many areas. I'm so glad I got the chance to know her and I'm so sorry she had to battle her illness & suffering but each time we talked or I saw her, she was still smiling & "making the best of a not so good" situation. She kept fighting & forging on. I know she must have been a wonderful teacher, she loved her job and I can tell from the things here,her students wrote, that she made a difference in so many of their lives. Carter, I am so sorry for your loss but I know you and your mother shared a special time/love in your 17 years. You were the most important person,ever, in her life, and she loved being your mom! I'm sure you already know that!

It is so true: "Some people come into our lives and quietly stay. Others stay for a while,leaving footprints in our hearts and we are never the same."

I'm so glad I knew Sheryl, I hope she is in a wonderful place experiencing so much peace & joy, free of pain & suffering. Love, always, Mary Ann

Mary Ann Lipsey - October 07, 2017 at 03:35 PM

RI

“ I had just transferred to Sam Houston and was the student that sat in the back of the class drinking Dr. Peppers. After class one day, she asked me to stay after. I thought I was in some form of trouble. She explained to me her fight with cancer and how if she was in remission, she wanted a tattoo and see what I suggested, since I had about 20 at the time. We went to her office and she showed me what she had designed and I gathered the information and talked with my artist. After my final that semester, we went to get the tattoo done. It was an amazing experience and I was honored to have been the person to go with her and be there for her. We talked and giggled throughout the whole process. After that, we would talk about the next ones I was planning to get and talk about how the designs had to be changed for proper appearance and color details. After she was diagnosed with cancer again. I still had her design from her first tattoo and got it tattooed on my arm.

Risa - October 07, 2017 at 11:09 AM

ML

i saw the ones on her fingers, is that the one you did?

Mary Ann Lipsey - October 07, 2017 at 03:12 PM

RI

She has one on her, I think it's the left arm. It says grateful. I arranged the appointment for the ones on her fingers.

Risa - October 08, 2017 at 01:42 AM

ML

yes i saw them when she first got them. Glad you were able to help her w/that

mary Ann Lipsey - October 08, 2017 at 03:07 PM

RI

I'm glad she let me be apart of that adventure.

Risa - October 09, 2017 at 02:03 AM

SY

“*Dr. Murphy-Manley was an amazing influence in my life. She gave me confidence when others had beat me down. She came in like a breath of fresh air and made the course material come alive. She was always positive and encouraging. She will forever be in my heart.*”

Sandra Young - October 07, 2017 at 10:50 AM