



Margaret Fox

July 2, 1919 - April 1, 2010

Margaret Woodruff Fox, nee Margaret Elinor Woodruff, passed away Thursday afternoon, April 1, 2010 after a short illness, surrounded by loving family and friends. She was born in Detroit, Michigan, July 2, 1919, to Charles and Margaret (Hannah) Woodruff. Mother Margaret died the next day, and the baby Margaret was raised by Agnes Blackmer, the mother's older sister, in Memphis, Michigan. At an early age she began piano lessons, and at the age of 14 became the pianist at her church. After graduation from Memphis High School, she enrolled in the Music School at the University of Michigan, her father's Alma Mater, studying music education, with piano as her principal instrument. While there, she was active in the Student Fellowship at the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor, sang in the Church choir, and met her husband-to-be, Howard Fox, an Engineering student at the University, who was also active in these same groups. They planned to be married in the summer of 1941, after graduation, but war clouds were gathering, and Howard was called to active duty in the army. They were married on July 29, 1945, after his return from Europe, where he had spent 39 months, serving in the Headquarters of the 5th Infantry Division. During this time, Margaret taught music and other subjects in the Marlette, Michigan, Consolidated School, and attended classes in summer school at the University. She studied for her Master's Degree, in music education, which she received in 1946, after her marriage and return to Ann Arbor, where her husband was employed in the Engineering Department of the King-Seeley Corporation, an Ann Arbor Manufacturer of automotive instrument panels, sensors, and other items. Living in Ann Arbor, she began a part-time job assisting one of her former professors, typing, filing, etc. and soon began working for other professors, a job that soon led to a half-time position as secretary to the faculty of the Music School, where she worked for 46 years. During this time she and her husband attended many plays and concerts presented by the University Musical Society, the Music School, The Ann Arbor Symphony, and other organizations, and was an active participant in several organizations: The Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, the Mu Phi Epsilon Alumni group (her music sorority), The Society of Musical Arts, the Music section of the Faculty Wives Club, The Friends of Four Hand Music, The First Congregational Church, and a Chinese choir (as the accompanist). At the church, she served, at various times, as Sunday School teacher, choir singer, and Chapel Organist for the weekly communion

service, a service she performed for about 25 years. In the early 70's, she 'Mothered' a succession of Youth For Understanding exchange students, all from Finland: Tapani Yrjölä, Violin; Risto Vartiainen, Cello; Jorma Nurminen, Trumpet; and Tarja Maenpää, General Studies. She is survived by Howard, her husband, of over 64 years, her cousins Linda, Katie & Karl Fensch, and David, Leroy, & John Kiplinger. She was predeceased by her parents, Charles & Margaret Woodruff, and an aunt, Laura Woodruff. A memorial service will be held at the First Congregational Church at 4:00PM Friday April 9, followed by a reception in the Mayflower room at the church. No flowers please; if you wish to make a memorial contribution, please consider the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor, 608 E. William St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 or the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance, E.V. Moore Building, 1100 Baits Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Please visit Margaret's personal webpage to leave a memory or to sign her guestbook at www.niefuneralhomes.com

Comments



“ It was a real pleasure and an honor to be one of the other Margarets and Howards. I will truly miss taking her to MusicSection meetings. She and Howard were such a part of our concert life. We almost always walked behind them when we left concerts. No one can replace them. They were so kind. Howard, please let us help you take care of some of your chores. with love, Howard and Margaret

Margaret & Howard Bond - February 11, 2011 at 01:55 PM



“ My association with Margaret was through my mother, who was also an active participant in Friends of Four Hand. Margaret and Howard were regular attendees and hosts. I have many good memories of Margaret playing duets. and including one of her exchange students in a Four Hand program recently in her home. We also saw Margaret and Howard at many concerts.

Marie Panchuk - February 11, 2011 at 01:55 PM



“ I have many warm memories of Mrs. Fox, particularly that she was my first Sunday school teacher that I'm able to remember. That would have been about 1958, in third grade. She was a very loving and kind lady. My sympathy, Mr. Fox, for the loss of your treasured companion of so many years.

John Leidy - February 11, 2011 at 01:55 PM



“ For twenty-nine of those forty-six years that Margaret worked at the School of Music, I was her colleague. In the early days (before word processors and computers were ubiquitous) it was one of my duties to oversee the annual NASM Report (which of course had to be typed). That was no strain at all for Margaret, but every ten years, there was a re-accreditation visit from NASM that involved the preparation of mammoth--some might say "monstrous"--report. This much-dreaded thing drove everybody crazy, was highly complicated to prepare, and though it nowadays can be revised as many times as necessary prior to submission, in the early days it had to be typed. I will always remember the grace with which Margaret uncomplainingly accepted revision after revision, never once expressing dismay or even the slightest reluctance to do it again. What a trooper!

Morris Risenhoover - February 11, 2011 at 01:55 PM



“ I have so many fond memories of both you , Howard, and Margaret. It was always a comfort to have a neighbor next door as kind and gentle as Margaret. I'm so sorry I didn't read of her death until after the funeral on Friday or I certainly would have been there to honor and celebrate her life. Howard, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Take Care, Carol Oakes (Kitchenmaster).

Carol Oakes (Kitchenmaster) - February 11, 2011 at 01:55 PM