



## William A. Beger Jr.

February 2, 1945 - December 9, 2019

William A. (Bill) Beger Jr., of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away on December 9, 2019, at the age of 74. Dear brother of Marylou (the late Dan) Montpas, Gary (Gayle), the late Bob and Fred (Kim). Bill graduated from Cass Technical High School. He received his Bachelor and Master's Degree in Music Education from Wayne State University. Bill retired from Detroit Public Schools where he taught instrumental music. He was a proud member of the Detroit Federation of Musicians for over 50 years. Thanks to all his trumpet students and their families for allowing him the privilege of working with them. Per Bill's request there will be no service. Interment at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Twp., MI. In memory of Bill, memorial contributions may be directed to The Shriner's Hospital for Children, <https://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/> Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family at [www.wasikfuneralhome.com](http://www.wasikfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

PF

“ Bill was my mentor through middle and high school. He was a great instructor and I owe my trumpet playing ability to the man who would beat the music stand when I got off tempo. May your memory be eternal.

*Dr Paul Frangedakis*

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**Paul Frangedakis** - October 26, 2021 at 01:33 PM

TC

“ Ah, Bill, What a guy in addition to being a fine musician! I had know him for almost 60 years. He served as trumpet instructor at Macomb College for a number of years. He can be credited with directing and encouraging quite a number of the fine trumpet players in the community. He also played principal with the Macomb Symphony for some time, but I remember him best one on one as a colleague and partner in dozens of quintet performances for weddings and concerts. We always made great music while having a great time. Billy... you left us too soon!

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**Tom Cook** - December 16, 2019 at 02:58 PM

GK

“ I was so sorry to read of Bill's passing. I was member of his Renaissance Brass quintet and we played many concerts together. He was a fine player and a good friend .

*You have my deepest sympathy.*

*gregory Knas*

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**Gregory Knas** - December 15, 2019 at 09:15 PM

JD

“ Hello Mary Lou and the Beger Family.

*How sad to see the obituary for Bill in the paper today. You are all in my thoughts and prayers as you endure this most difficult loss.*

*Bill was a grade school classmate - you were a year ahead of us, I think. I recall being welcomed at several Beger family garage parties in 7th and 8th grade.. always a fun time. Of course we lost touch as our life journey took us in different directions in high school and beyond.*

*It was a pleasure to briefly reconnect when I was guided to him and his trumpet talent to play at my daughter's wedding at St. Paul on the Lake many years ago. His reputation brought a high, well deserved recommendation. We had a delightful reunion conversation whilst making the wedding musical arrangements. Dave Wagner was very pleased to team with his friend for the beautiful ceremony. Bill's contribution was indeed memorable.*

*Bill and his gifted love for music he so generously shared will surely be missed.*

*May he rest in peace in God's loving arms.*

*Jane Reed Keough Davies*

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**Jane Keough Davies** - December 15, 2019 at 10:06 AM

MK

“ *Being Music Director at St. Clare of Montefalco Church in the late 1980s, Bill and I played for a number of weddings there. He was always so friendly, professional, and a fantastic trumpet player. It was a privilege to work with him. Thanks, Bill!*  
*Maureen Kennedy*

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**Maureen Kennedy** - December 15, 2019 at 08:55 AM

SM

“ Bill was a good friend of mine who grew to feel like an uncle over the years to me and my son. He would welcome me into his home from an early age where he would occasionally tutor me on the trumpet, never asking for anything in return. It was obvious Bill was a man of integrity, and as a young man I admired his refined taste and his love for the fruits of nature. He loved his flowers and fruit trees, I think the Angel's trumpet may have been his favorite. I have only fond memories of Bill. I will remember him as a man with a large infectious smile who was always filled with cheer. I will also remember the beautiful sounds of a truly great musician.

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**Stephen Mack** - December 13, 2019 at 03:38 AM

RJ

“ Bill was a good friend, and an inspiring player for many years. We played a lot of jobs together, and his skills as a trumpet player were never in doubt. Over time he became a good friend and I will miss not only his playing but his wry sense of humor.  
Ron Jimison

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**Ron Jimison** - December 12, 2019 at 02:52 PM

ES

“ I am saddened by the passing of Bill.  
Over the years, we worked gigs together for several leaders. He was always a fun guy to work with.  
He worked up a good wedding & church service business- a real credit to professional musicians.

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**Ernie Skuta** - December 11, 2019 at 07:12 PM

RM

“*Marylou and family,  
I have known Bill for almost 50 years. I first met him in 1970 as he was my private lesson instructor on trumpet, at Wayne Music Studio, and over time he became, and was currently my closest friend. I will always remember the time we shared together, whether just the two of us, or with my family, as he always graciously accepted our invitations. I will remember Bill as a great musician, and one of the best, if not the best trumpet player around. He was also, as you know, an extremely hard worker; very accomplished and productive. He was also very smart. He never ceased to amaze me at his knowledge of the church, music, and many other things. He was a great friend, always willing to get together and talk. I will truly miss him. Ron Mack*



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**Ron Mack** - December 11, 2019 at 05:46 PM

RO

“ I have known Bill most of my life. I took lessons from him at Detroit Wayne Music Studio since I was 9 years old and took lessons through High School from him. When you came to your lesson it was a good idea to bring him a coffee. You were sure to have a good lesson that way. He was always in good spirits and loved to laugh. We have always been in contact over the years and played many gigs together. When I was 15 he asked me to play with him in the Jewish Center Symphony Orchestra. It was the first time I had ever played in an Orchestra.

*In the past 15 years I have asked Bill to come and listen to my private students and work with them on their solo's for Solo and Ensemble. His price for helping was always the same a bottle of red wine. Preferably a Merlot. With Bill there to add his expertise they always received a first division rating. Bill also loved to grow things in his yard like Trumpet Lilies. He gave me some of the seeds from those flowers that now grow in my yard. I will miss him.*

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**Raymond Oset** - December 11, 2019 at 05:35 PM

JH

“ Bill and I sat together as Trumpet players in the Wayne State Band under Harry Begian. We used to use matchsticks on the music stand to "own" and count our bloopers throughout the rehearsal. I always had more sticks than he....Bill was a great player - and a funny 'fella. Later he would play in the pit orchestras I directed at WSU and other places in town. He always had a smile and quip to brighten the day. So sad to hear about his passing.

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**Jim Hohmeyer** - December 11, 2019 at 05:29 PM

LB

“ Billy was one of my best friends in high school and college. We had a lot of adventures along the way. He was a good friend to me, driving me to our concerts, sharing humorous experiences. Condolences to Marylou and Gary.

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**Linda Borushko** - December 11, 2019 at 04:40 PM

PM

“ I played with Bill for many, many years at Old St. Mary's Greektown. We had lots of laughs and even more eye-rolling during the Latin masses. But I will always remember and appreciate the many different and unique postludes he wanted to try out. It was like we would put on our seatbelts and just see each other “after the ride”. RIP Bill and say Hello to my Mother!! ❤️

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**Pam McGowan** - December 11, 2019 at 10:18 AM

DW

“ I am heartbroken to hear of the passing of my good friend Bill Beger. Our friendship dates from the early 1970's and I cannot even count the number of weddings that we played together. It must be at least a 1,000 over a 35 year period and there were organ and trumpet concerts that we also gave together. I just learned of his passing this morning from another good friend Bob Barnhart, who also worked closely with Bill and will also miss his talent and enthusiasm for playing. Bill was an unbelievably fine musician, who would show up at the gig with his case of 5 horns; he was always trying something new "Hey, let me play this on the Fluegelhorn" Rest in peace my friend. May we meet again.

*Dave Wagner*

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**dave wagner** - December 11, 2019 at 07:16 AM

PM

“ Bill was my first private teacher in the 1970s, and my performing colleague more recently. I have many happy musical memories in which Bill was an integral part. I will miss him. Paul Miller

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**Paul Miller** - December 11, 2019 at 05:30 AM

LA

“ Lanny and Kathy Austin will fondly remember Bill as a wonderful friend, musician and fellow Cass Tech HS Alum.

1962, CTHS band conductor Harry Begian has prepared our band for another mammoth Spring concert including a program full of difficult solos for phenom 6'2" senior solo chair trumpeter Dave Culp. (Hindemith Sym. etc.) No worries there for HS players!?

But ...Culp decides, a week before the concert, to forego his HS diploma to go on the road w the Buddy Morrow Band thus leaving all the exposed trumpet parts to a diminutive 2nd chair kid named Bill Beger.

And of course that's how reputations are made as Bill flawlessly nailed the whole evening while all of us band members and even the stoic Begian became fans.

Bill was indeed unique in many lovable ways.

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**Lanny Austin** - December 10, 2019 at 07:22 PM

MA

“ I have many fond memories of walking down Westphalia and hearing the lovely sound of Bill's trumpet coming from the Beger home. RIP.

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**maureen anthony** - December 10, 2019 at 04:50 PM

KB

*As Music Minister of St. Peter Church Mt. Clemens I did many weddings, funerals, & Sacraments with Bill! He was so accomplished, talented, & so much fun to make music with!! Quite a human being-- funny, great sense of humor, & impeccable musicianship! HEAVEN just made the mark with him as a new addition!! So much beauty he added WHEREEVER he blew his song...I am very saddened by OUR LOSS & Heaven's gain!! We needed You here much longer 2 teach, play, & fill our halls with that phenomenal sounds! You certainly did not bury your talents but passes them on 2 the world!! You will be missed..so..ANOTHER GREAT MUSICIAN ENTERS HEAVEN TO JAZZ IT UP A NOTCH..Thanks Bill..U were so amazing!!*

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**KATHLEEN BEUTEL** - December 22, 2019 at 10:03 PM