



Brian Bowen

September 27, 1940 - September 30, 2022

Brian Bowen, 82, passed away on September 30, 2022, following 4 months with an aggressive form of Lymphoma.

Brian was born in Staines, England, on Sept. 27, 1940, during an air raid in WW II. to Alfred and Nancy Bowen. He was raised in a Salvation Army background where he developed his love of music. When he became the bandmaster of his local Salvation Army Church at the age of 25. he combined his musical talents with his strong faith. He was a Fellow with Trinity School of Music in London and was an accomplished conductor and composer of British brass band music.

Brian also had an encyclopedic knowledge of classical music and classical music composers. He worked at Schott music publishing company in London for many years working mainly on the Eulinburg Scores coordinating with scholars and composers including Sir Michael Tippett.

In 1986 Brian went back to his Salvation Army roots when he was asked to come to New York City in America to work in the Music Department there and conduct the Salvation Army New York Staff Band. He had the opportunity to conduct the band not only in America but in many countries throughout the world. He met his wife, Lois, in The Salvation Army church in Montclair NJ and they were married in 1988.

In 1992 He started his freelance career in music editing for Schott Publisher in London, Oxford University Press, Schirmer Inc, Kjos Publishers, The Salvation Army Music Dept in Chicago and more. He loved his work and considered it a hobby as he went into his retirement years.

In 2001 Brian and Lois relocated to Sarasota Florida, not only for its beauty but for its reputation for being a Center of the Arts. Over the years in Florida, he took the opportunity to attend concerts by the Sarasota Orchestra, Operas at the beautiful Sarasota Opera

House, plays at the historic Asolo theater and countless other events.

Brian is predeceased by his son Simon. He is survived by his wife Lois, daughter, Juliet McKee by his first marriage, stepdaughter, Erin Becker, sister Joan Parris and his 5 grandchildren, Louis, Fergus, Kitty, Felix and Xanthe.

Services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 2050 Oak St., Sarasota, FL. at 2:00 PM. on Thursday, October 13, 2022.

The service will be live streamed at firstpressarasota.org

Tribute Wall

RO

“ So many memories. I had the privilege of not only playing under “Bandmaster Brian Bowen” in Staines Salvation Army Band for many years, I also had the honour of enjoying his warm friendship.
Brian was without doubt a wonderful musician, as a composer, performer and leader.
I will look back and remember many happy and treasured times in his company.
Thank you Brian for all your kindness and consideration that you showed me on so many, many occasions.
You will be greatly missed.
Thinking of all Brian’s family at this sad time.
Ray Oliver

Raymond Oliver - October 12, 2022 at 06:43 PM

BT

“ My memories as a former bandman of Staines SA Band of Brian start even before I attended the Corps. He wrote a personal letter of welcome and as a young person leaving home that calmed any nerves. Our friendship grew as did my utter respect for him as a musician and his compositions. A sad loss to family and the music world. Brian Topping

Brian Topping - October 12, 2022 at 08:32 AM

BH

“ Bless you, Lois, Erin, and all of Brian’s family. May your memories bring you peace.

Bonnie Henderson - October 07, 2022 at 08:26 PM

CH

“ Auntie Lois, Erin, and Family, I'm very sorry for your loss. Although I didn't know Brian, I know he was beloved in your family. There's really nothing I can say to ease your pain but my heart is with you. Love, Chantal

Chantal - October 07, 2022 at 07:49 PM

JS

“ Brian was a good Father, Husband, Friend, talented musician, composer and a good man. He loved his family. We loved him. Rest in palace dear Brian. God be with Lois, Erin, Julie and his family in England. He will be missed by so many.
God speed Brian. Rest well.

Janet Schotter - October 07, 2022 at 02:59 PM

JS

Peace not palace

Janet Schotter - October 07, 2022 at 03:00 PM

JS

“ Although I only knew Brian for a few years, sitting next to him in the chancel choir of First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota was a wonderful experience. Getting to know and appreciate his encyclopedic knowledge of music, his gentle spirit and compassionate heart. He had a beautiful voice and, since I never learned to read music, having his voice right next to me was like always having my own personal pitch pipe. Now you're helping others sing their best in the heavenly choir.

Jack Senterfitt - October 07, 2022 at 02:50 PM