



## Harlan Walter Hock

November 12, 1939 - July 30, 2020

Dateline: Alton

Harlan Walter Hock, 80, died at 8:40 a.m. Thursday, July 30, 2020 at his home in Alton. Born November 12, 1939 in Belleville, IL, he was the son of Walter and Thelma Bernice (Mounts) Hock. Mr. Hock taught private piano lessons starting at 15 years old. He received a Masters degree in music and studied under Ruth Slenczynska, World Famous pianist and Artist in Residence at Southern Illinois University. During his time at SIUE, Mr. Hock received Slenczynska's music award for two years. Mr. Hock continued playing piano and worked at Lewis and Clark Community College for twenty years. Most recently, he served as Music Department Chairman. He married the former Georgian Antonacci Gutmann in 1986, she survives. Also surviving is his daughter, Kim Major (Mike) of Defiance, MO, a step-daughter, Kathy Ufert of Bunker Hill, two step-sons, Doctor James Gutmann (Maria) of Evansville, IN, Daniel Gutmann (Cindi) of Alton, a granddaughter, Victoria Major, step grandchildren: Dennis Vahle, Zachary Gutmann, Andrew Gutmann, Cole Gutmann, Kyli Gutmann, Alishia Ufert, Emily Gutmann, Katie Gutmann, and step great grandchildren, Lilian Vahle, twins, Summer and Quentin Mims, several cousins, nieces and nephews all survive. A memorial service will be held at Gent Funeral Home in Alton on Saturday August 8, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. A celebration of Harlan's life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Partners for Pets in Troy, IL.

Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services

2409 State Street

Alton, IL 62002

(618) 466-5544

<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Harlan Walter Hock*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Harlan Walter Hock*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *This is mom's story that I'm sharing - I graduated from L & C in '74 and before I left for SIUC that fall, I encouraged mom to enroll in music at L & C. She had always taught piano and organ, played for church, accompanied church choirs, etc., so I knew she could handle the material. Her first day of music classes, she was looking out the window of Gillman Hall when she saw a young man pull up on his motorcycle and come into the building swinging his helmet. "Who's that," she asked one of the other students. "That's our music teacher, Harlan Hock," they replied. I don't know what her reply was but she was definitely startled! After that inauspicious beginning, she and Harlan became good friends, a friendship which continued until his untimely passing. Deepest condolences to all. He will be missed! - Mary Heeren for Charlotte Heeren*

**Mary L. Heeren** - August 14, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ *My sympathy goes out to Harlan's wife and family. Harlan was instrumental in helping me begin my college career. He was a kind man with a good heart.*

*Darren Pelot*

**Darren Pelot** - August 08, 2020 at 10:50 AM

JK

“ I could never find the words to express what Harlan means to me.

*I was raised in foster care and I was fortunate enough to find a home in the L&C Music Department. I am not a gifted musician, and being self taught, I wasn't sure if I was good enough to take college classes. Harlan told me, "Where there's a will, there's a way", so I took Class Piano with Cheryl Hoch, and Basic Music Theory with Tom Crammond. I made good grades, and Harlan gave me a scholarship so I could afford to keep taking classes. Everybody in the music department was wonderful, and I was able to get a job working as a stagehand for Roger Haynes at the theater. When Harlan asked me to teach in the Music Prep Program, I was honored, but I didn't think I could do it. Harlan reassured me, and I ended up teaching for over 20 years. My daughter was born when I started teaching, and she used my office to study in when she grew up and took classes at L&C herself.*

*I will always cherish my memories of building sets, and running lights and sound for several productions of the Music Department. I had so many wonderful students who went on to be better musicians than myself. Working with Harlan, Roger, Bud Summers, and Stan Chytil, was the greatest time of my life.*

*The L&C Music Department was more than just a department, it was a family.*

*We love you Harlan, and we will greatly miss you!*

*John Kurz*

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**John Kurz** - August 07, 2020 at 04:00 PM

KS

“ To the Harlan Hock Family,  
I am sorry to hear of Harlan's passing recently. I was 8 years old when my mother blessed me to give me piano lessons under the instruction of Harlan. He was a very patient person to work with a very impatient 8 year old boy. It was almost a year after taking lessons that I could finally start playing due to Harlan teaching me music first. To this day I think of him when I sit down to play. I learned so much from Harlan besides music. He taught me music, memorization skills, how to perform at a recital in St Louis once a year with a memorized piece of music, and most importantly how to be a gentleman. I stopped taking lessons when I reached high school and started playing in the high school bands at the age of 15. I lost my father at the age of 18 my senior year in high school and I had lost contact with Harlan until I reached the age of 24 and sent an invite to Harlan to my wedding. I entered the church from the back of the church and I spotted Harlan who had made it to our special day and it truly touched us by his presence.

Thank you to Harlan's family for sharing a wonderful person whom shaped my person at a very young age.

Kevin Schoenborn

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Kevin Schoenborn - August 07, 2020 at 12:54 PM

JB

“ Dear Georgiann, Kim, and Family,  
I was so saddened to hear of Harlan's death. He was the person who introduced me to the piano and a lifelong love of music. Having taken lessons from him from age 5 to 19, he became a very important influence in my life. He was my teacher, my mentor, and in later life, my friend. I will always be grateful for everything I learned from him and will continue to think of him every time I sit down at the piano. "His song has ended, but the melody lingers on..."  
Janie Bloomer

Janie Bloomer - August 06, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Harlan Walter Hock.



August 06, 2020 at 12:27 PM

GA

“ Gateway Norton Owners Association purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Harlan Walter Hock.



Gateway Norton Owners Association - August 06, 2020 at 11:32 AM

TC

“ Tom, Jan, and Samantha Crammond purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Harlan Walter Hock.



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**Tom, Jan, and Samantha Crammond** - August 05, 2020 at 10:00 PM

AB

“ I'm sorry to read of the lose of your husband. May you find comfort and healing in the months ahead. Ann Badasch

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**Ann Badasch** - August 05, 2020 at 12:10 PM

JK

“ Such a sad day to lose a teacher, friend and gift to music and inspiration on July 30. He prepared me to pass the audition to get into the music department at SIUE as well as prepared me to be able to remember and successfully accomplish my required piano recital for graduation. He became great friends with my husband as we three took motorcycle trips to the cabin on the Lake of the Ozarks. Then we met Georgian and all became great friends for life. We have lost a true friend, but the good memories live on--as well as his love of animals and music. We miss you, Harlan. Hugs to you Geo.'

*Sherry and Jack Kerber*

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**JACK AND SHERRY KERBER** - August 04, 2020 at 10:52 PM

CH

“ We are so very sorry for the loss of Harlan. He held a special spot in Marek's heart and was a great friend to my parents. Love and support to Georgian and family. Claire, Ben and Marek McKinney.



Claire Heffron-McKinney - August 04, 2020 at 07:36 PM

SW

“ Harlan was the best teacher I ever had and a real gentleman. He taught me how to memorize music and made me a much better pianist. He will be missed.

Sandy Wohlert - August 03, 2020 at 08:06 AM

JC

“ So sorry for your loss, Georgian. Words cannot express all that Harlan meant to me. He was a wonderful boss, champion, musician, and friend. I will always treasure my time working with him at LCCC. Praying for you and your family.

Jill Vandegriff Clayton

Jill Vandegriff Clayton - August 02, 2020 at 10:26 PM

DR

“ I'm saddened to hear the news about Harlan. I had Harlan for a couple of classes when I started at Lewis and Clark. Though it was a short time under his instruction, he still left a big impact on me. He was always jovial, very helpful and encouraging. The type of professor you want your first year of college. He'll be dearly missed.  
- Douglas Raffety

Douglas Raffety - August 02, 2020 at 09:17 PM

DS

“ *He was an incredible teacher and musician, and a wonderful person.*

*I was a student in late 80s, and blessed to have him as music theory teacher at Lewis and Clark.*

*I learned more from that man in a year than I had combined all my years prior to having him for a teacher.*

*Blessings and condolences to his family and loved ones.*

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**Don Stankus** - August 02, 2020 at 06:10 PM

TC

“ I met Harlan when I went to Lewis and Clark Community College in the Fall of 1980. I was inquiring about going back to School to get a degree in Music. Harlan was so warm and understanding. He immediately told me he could help me get enrolled and maybe get some financial aid. This was a blessing because I was newly married and had a four-month-old daughter. Subsequently, I graduated from L&C in 1984 and went on to SIUE to get a BM and MM. In 1986, Harlan hired me as a part time music instructor at L&C. I taught part time at L&C for 16 years. I ended up having a successful teaching career and if not for Harlan I would have never made it through school nor would I have ever become a teacher. Harlan and I remained friends for all these years and enjoyed times together musically and socially. I owe almost all my success in life to Harlan. If Harlan had not taken me under his wing, I would have never pursued my further education and had the success and fulfillment I have enjoyed! What is most remarkable about my story is Harlan did this for probably hundreds of students at L&C. Harlan helped my daughter when she attended L&C and she went on to Webster where she graduated with a BM. Harlan was the best music teacher that I have met in my entire life and the best teacher I ever met. Harlan personified all the best attributes of a great teacher and/or counselor. He helped everyone who ever went to L&C in all ways possible! Besides being our teacher, he was a counselor, a tutor, a friend, and advocate for all of us. The story of the success of L&C Music department is simply Harlan Hock's devotion to music, education, and his enduring friendship to all his students! He was the Best of the Best! I will miss him! Still to this day when I think about my life and good times, I always think of Harlan. Thank You, Harlan! God Speed! Tom Crammond

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**Tom Crammond** - August 02, 2020 at 05:16 PM



*Well said Tom, my story is almost identical to yours. Harlan made such an impact on my life, I could never imagine my life without him.*

*We love you, and will greatly miss you Harlan.*

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**Joyce Kurz** - August 02, 2020 at 08:15 PM

JL

*I celebrate the new life Harlan has begun. My deepest sympathy to you and your family on your loss. Keeping you in prayer for healing. Joanne Lenhardt*

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**Joanne Lenhardt** - August 03, 2020 at 10:27 AM

JV

“ *My condolences to the family. So sorry for your loss.*



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**Janice VanMeter** - August 02, 2020 at 08:42 AM

GL

“ *Gena Lewis lit a candle in memory of Harlan Walter Hock*



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**Gena Lewis** - August 01, 2020 at 05:36 PM

LD

“ *Georgian, you and your family are in our prayers. Harlan was a very special person to all of us.*

*LEE and Kim Dick.*

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**Lee Dick** - August 01, 2020 at 05:24 PM