



John R. Petrone

December 26, 1932 - March 30, 2022

John R. Petrone, Ph.D., 89, of Kirtland, Ohio, died March 30 of kidney failure at David Simpson Hospice House. He was born on December 26, 1932, in Youngstown, Ohio, the only child of Mary (nee Macchione) and Angelo (Skee) Petrone who preceded him in death.

John is survived by his six children: Nicolette Petrone (Mark Reynolds), Jennifer Miroglotta (Sal), John G. Petrone (Eva), Margaret M. Petrone, Michael Petrone (Kristine Jackson), and Susan Petrone (Michael Daugherty). John is also the beloved grandfather of Jessica Stuver (Ryan), Halle Miroglotta, Dylan Petrone (Hannah Novinc), Ryan Petrone, Sage Petrone, Solana Petrone, and Ella Daugherty. A great-grandson will be arriving in June. John married Diane L. Ruppel in 1987, and they were married for 35 years. John also leaves behind a host of cherished cousins, friends, and former students.

A proud United States Air Force Veteran, he served in the Korean War as a Sergeant. After his service, John Petrone completed his Bachelor of Music Education at Youngstown College. He then obtained his Master's in Music Education from Duquesne University and then continued graduate work at Catholic University of America, Case Western Reserve University, and was awarded a doctorate degree from Conservatoire de Musique de Lille in France.

Dr. Petrone has been a lifelong performer, composer, and educator, so it is fitting that he died on World Piano Day. At the age of nine, he performed his first piano recital at Butler Art Institute in Youngstown. Since then, he has performed, either as a pianist, conductor, or both, in every venue available to the professional musician: television and radio, pit orchestras for national touring artists, studio recording, small jazz clubs, and Carnegie Hall, N.Y.

As a composer, Dr. Petrone has numerous published works for school orchestras and bands. He has composed the music for a full-length musical based on the life of St. Augustine and has written many children's shows. He was the music director and composer for "The Mr. Jingeling Show" during it full tenure in Cleveland. In addition, he has had many commissions for choral and orchestral works. He played for well-known performers, such as Jonathan Winters, Steve Allen, The Ink Spots, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Red Skelton, the Lennon Sisters, and Engelbert Humperdinck, and even met Count Basie.

As a music educator, Dr. Petrone taught vocal and instrumental music at every level from kindergarten to college in the Willoughby-Eastlake School District and Ursuline College.

Dr. Petrone will be remembered for his ever-present sense of humor and wit, his love of cars and racing, his incredible music talent, and his zeal for life.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude for the care John received from his health care team from Cleveland Clinic and Hospice.

The family will receive friends to pay tribute to and celebrate his life on Sunday, April 3, 2022, from 1pm to 5pm at Monreal Funeral Home, 35400 Curtis Blvd, Eastlake, OH 44095.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 11am at Divine Word Catholic Church, 8100 Eagle Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094.

Interment will be at Western Reserve Memorial Gardens, 11521 Chillicothe Road, Chesterland, Ohio 44026.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made in Dr. Petrone's name to Hospice of the Western Reserve, P.O. Box 72101, Cleveland, Ohio 44192. <https://www.hospicewr.org/Patients-and-Caregivers/Giving-Back/Make-a-Gift>

Cemetery Details

Western Reserve Memorial Gardens

11521 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, OH 44026

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

APR 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Divine Word Catholic Church
8100 Eagle Road
Willoughby, OH 44094

Tribute Wall

CV

“ I know my sympathy is coming very late but I was just talking about Mr. Petrone to my brothers and sisters and reminiscing about what a wonderful music teacher he was at Kennedy Junior High way back in the late 70's. So, I googled and found this... he was a wonderful man, such a gift to us all. Thanks for sharing so much of him!

Chrissy Kahoun Valaitis - September 13, 2022 at 11:16 AM

RL

“ Mr. Petrone taught me to appreciate music, as I had not really been shown the intricate way that music could be viewed at all levels, from our nation's musical history to contemporary enjoyment of popular songs. From Rock and Roll to Blues, to the Disco brought into our popular enjoyment by Staying Alive, he made all music an appealing part of life. A kind, fair, and charismatic teacher, I will never forget the frequent recollections of being privileged to be a student of his at JFK Jr. High School. My life is better and is certainly more appreciative of all types of music, and I never forget who taught me to appreciate this art. Godspeed Mr. Petrone, God is able to now enjoy a talent we so selfishly enjoyed for ourselves during your wondrous years on Earth!



Rich Lardner - April 05, 2022 at 08:28 AM



Thank you for sharing this lovely story about my dad.

Jenny Miroglotta - April 06, 2022 at 07:12 PM

RB

“ I entered John's life as a young adult piano student. He and I both realized quickly that my desire to play far exceeded my ability to do so. Lessons continued just in case of an unexpected "break-through". I once played through a piece of music while John sat behind me in his desk chair listening until i finished. After a moment of silence he asked me.... "Do you have a piano at home?" He had a gift of making me laugh, upsetting me, and making a point all at the same time. I smile with tears in my eyes even as i write this. On another occasion he said to me "Maybe God doesn't want everybody to be a piano player." Sobering, humbling, and humorous....another 3 point shot from mid-court! eventually i gave up the lessons, but could never give up the friendship. I was well aware of what a unique and extra special person God had put in my path....a solid man of Class and Integrity who meant what he said and led by example. Notice how he respected and cared for his and also his wife Diane's mother. Over the years I attended countless performances John gave, leaving me with so many great memories. I enjoyed watching him play where he was easily accessible to the audience (usually at Christmas time). A stranger or a friend could approach him at his piano in the middle of a song. John would carry on a long detailed conversation with the person without missing a single note. That amazed me no matter how many times I saw him do it. And there was nothing like the humorous exchanges among John and the band members between songs and sets. To all of John's family and friends who's hearts are hurting, take comfort in that we can revisit him any time through all the beautiful memories he left us. Thank you Dr. John for EVERYTHING ! May God hold you close and keep you forever.

Ron Bodnar

Ron Bodnar - April 02, 2022 at 05:26 PM

PM

Beautifully written, and so touching. Well done .

Penny Miller - April 08, 2022 at 09:52 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of John R. Petrone.*



April 02, 2022 at 03:57 PM

AD

“ *He was my mentor. He gave me what I needed to stand before an audience and sing. He and his wife Diane I will always love and cherish. We shared some good musical moments together. My heart is saddened.*

Anthony Dial - April 02, 2022 at 12:15 PM

RD

“ *Ron Bodnar & Peg DeBleyker purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of John R. Petrone.*



Ron Bodnar & Peg DeBleyker - April 02, 2022 at 11:28 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memory Video*



Monreal Srnick Funerals & Cremations - April 01, 2022 at 04:38 PM

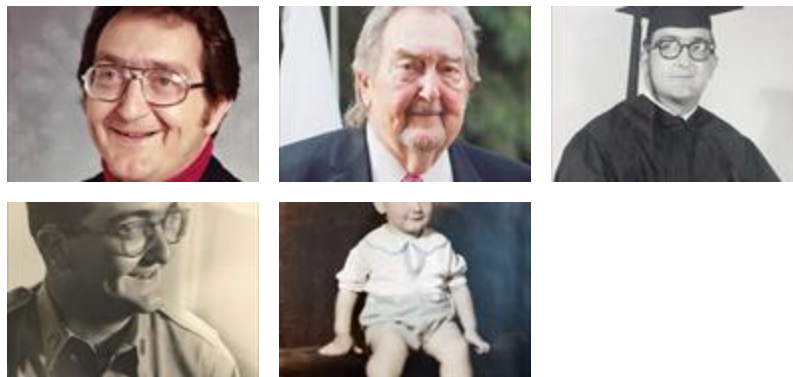
KB

“ *It may be the case that John played piano for many famous people, but I'm fairly certain no one ever stood on his piano to sing "A Town Without Pity" like I did one year at the Nisi Prius Grand Assize. I'll never forget how big his eyes got when I stepped up, but he never lost a beat. John played for me many times over the years at many Grand Assizes and he always made me feel like I did a great job. I have a great affection for John and he will definitely be missed. Heartfelt condolences to all of John's family.*

Katherine Brandt - April 01, 2022 at 03:10 PM



“ 5 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Jenny Miroglotta - April 01, 2022 at 10:46 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *John R. Petrone*.



April 01, 2022 at 10:37 AM

EH

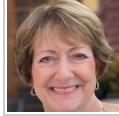
“ My sympathy to your family on the loss of your dear father, husband, and grandfather. I grew up in a family of 7 kids and all but one of us had him for band in the 60s at JFK Junior High. We have a lot of "Mr. Petrone" stories. I was a pretty lousy trombone player my first year and he told me I sounded like I had a potato stuck in my throat. That made me laugh and made me mad all at the same time. I asked him if I could take a baritone home for the summer and he gladly let me. I practiced with a vengeance all summer on baritone, trombone and trumpet. I returned with a better tone and never had to hear the potato comment again. We were a rowdy group of students and he used wit, humor and perseverance to get a musical result. (And a few flying batons)

I remember he took a group of us to see Urbie Green at an area junior high where Urbie did a clinic for all the trombone players and then took us on a field trip to a recording studio. These were all great motivators for a bunch of young teenage kids.

As a music educator I know the effort it takes to go the extra mile for your students. I don't know how he pulled off all of those things, but he was a natural teacher and consummate performer. His love for music was obvious in all he did and it rubbed off on a lot of us. The choir kids loved him just as much as the band students. It would be interesting to know how many music educators and performers got their start with him.

The music world is all the richer for his compositions, piano performance and teaching. I know he helped me in so many ways to get over my shyness and excel at my instrument. Many of the students who had him for band and choir are still playing and singing today in community bands, church choirs, orchestras, choral societies and jazz bands. That is a tribute to a great man who inspired and cared and built relationships with us through his craft. God bless and keep him.

Ellen Martin Hannan - March 31, 2022 at 05:12 PM



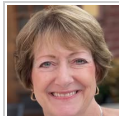
Thank you for sharing your wonderful stories of my father!

Jenny Miroglotta - April 01, 2022 at 09:00 AM

LS

“ *I wanted so badly to be in the choir at Kennedy Jr. high in 1966. As each one of us was called up to the piano to sing a short song to him so he knew where to place us in the choir, I was very nervous because I can't carry a tune. Well he noticed and said 'maybe you should be in art class' with that great smile. I really wanted to be in the choir so I begged him to accept me. He said OK you can stand next to so and so.....but don't sing! That made us both happy LOL! Years ago he was playing piano at The Cabin in Willowick when I was there and he remembered me! A very dear man he was. Condolences to his family, I'm so sorry for your loss. God speed Mr. Petrone*

Lisa Hadzinsky Stewart - March 31, 2022 at 03:15 PM



I love this story! Thank you so much for sharing your memories of my father.

Jenny Miroglotta - April 01, 2022 at 09:01 AM

AG

“ *I first met John in the late sixties when he was the conductor at Cain Park. I was in high school at the time and played trumpet in the orchestra for many musical productions. I learned so much from John. We became good friends and played various “gigs” together over the years. Our last gig was playing for vocalist Don DiSantis, only a couple of years ago. I have only fond memories and will miss him dearly. My heart goes out to the entire Petrone family.*

Sincerely, Art Goldstein

Art Goldstein - March 31, 2022 at 02:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John R. Petrone.*



March 31, 2022 at 01:38 PM



“ *So sorry to hear this. I enjoyed tuning his piano over the years. I always had a great time with him and his lovely wife.
RIP John*

Tony Romano

Tony Romano - March 31, 2022 at 12:27 PM



“ *John is a very well-known artist among our professional music circles. As a composer, arranger, band leader and accompanist, he led by supreme example - both professionally as an exceptional musician, and personally as a warm and friendly person. We lift the spirits of Diane and the Petrone family with our best memories of him. With Warmest Regards, Leonard DiCosimo, President, Cleveland Federation of Musicians, Local 4 AFM*

Leonard DiCosimo - March 31, 2022 at 11:39 AM

SS

“ Mr. Petrone was my music and choir teacher at John F Kennedy Junior High. He also taught us about character and human kindness which led some of us, along with his support and that of Principal Lynn Corder, to organize “Brotherhood Week”. This made a huge impact on my life. I loved reading the obituary and remembering him again (I’ve thought of him often over the years). He made choir concerts so much fun, and I am singing “Christmas is for Smiling” in my head as I ponder right now. I either didn’t know or recall his connection to Mr. Jingeling and the tune I drive my family crazy with as the holidays approach! To the family: Please know that this now 65 year old girl has the fondest memories of your Dad and grandfather. My prayers are with you during this time of great loss. Susan (Raney) Scott



Susan (Raney) Scott - March 30, 2022 at 09:59 PM