



Dr. Josette Marie Behrend-Harris (nee Midlock)

February 24, 1939 - August 28, 2010

Dr. Josette Marie Behrend-Harris (nee Midlock)

Behrend, a Joliet native, was born February 24, 1939, ... at Joliet Community Hospice after a short but brutal battle with pancreatic cancer.

An early passion for the piano led Dr. Josette Behrend to a career as a professor of music and as a pianist. Most recently she was a faculty member at Lewis University, in Lockport, Illinois. She completed her high school education at Saint Francis Academy in Joliet. She studied at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, where she received much of her formal training with William J. Browning and earned D.M.A., M.M. cum laude and a B.M. in Piano (doctorate, masters and bachelors degrees in musical arts). She received awards at the Chicago Music Festival organized by the Chicago Tribune, the Crescendo Club Piano Award and the Delta Omicron International Fraternity's Award for study in Aspen with Adele Marcus of the Julliard School. In 1990 she performed the Liszt Concerto at Orchestra Hall and spent several summers in France studying with the eminent pianist, Jeanne Marie Darre. In 1997, she presented a concert of works for duo piano for the Norton Building Concert Series in Lockport at Tallgrass Loft with Margaret Nichols.

Behrend also served on the piano faculty at the Sherwood Conservatory of

Music, Columbia College in Chicago, Roosevelt College and the VanderCook College of Music. “A great pianist herself, Josette was known for sharing her talent in her teaching profession,” according to friend and fellow musician, Jan Hunt. “Her students ranged in all ages and she provided a sound background as teacher for their careers. Several students won awards and moved on to professional music careers,” said Hunt.

“She also taught a select number of students privately with whom she had enduring relationships,” said Mary Ann Sorokie, long time friend and fellow musician. “Josette always cared about her students’ progress and personally participated in all their recitals and auditions being a constant support,” Sorokie said. “She was an excellent teacher and exceptionally loving human being,” Sorokie added.

Behrend accompanied many talented singers, with her most recent work involving cast from the musical production *Wicked*. “For more than 15 years, Josette joyfully played for a highly diverse and unique group of retired soloists and friends who aspired to keep their music alive,” according to Hunt. The group met bi-weekly in Hunt’s Lincoln Park home and their repertoire of talent ranged from Opera, Broadway Musicals as well as Sacred Music.

As dedicated in her faith as to the piano, she played regularly on Sundays for several churches in the Joliet area, including the Cathedral of Saint Raymond’s and most recently for the Unitarian Church. Behrend was highly regarded in the field of church music.

Beloved wife, she is survived by her devoted husband, James A. Harris a.k.a. Dimitri Haritopoulos, step-mother to Paul and Alex Harris of Cary, Illinois, Stacey Harris-Papaioannou of Mykonos, Greece, fun-loving step-grandmother to James, Frank and Arianna Harris, and Aristos and Dimitri Papaioannou and her beloved pet bird Charlie.

Josette is preceded in death by her father , Joseph Midlock (1946), her step-father, Anton Doupnik (1980) and her mother, Mary (Pikalla) Doupnik (1990) and her dog Dolly.

Heartfelt thanks to her doctors, 7th floor nurses at St. Josephs Hospital & the caring staff at Joliet Area Community Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in her name should be sent to the American Cancer Society or Joliet Area Community Hospice.

VISITATION & DVD MEMORIAL: Tuesday August 31, 2010, 4:00 – 8:00 PM. at Delgado Funeral Chapel 400 Landau Ave. Joliet, IL 60432. Visitation available live on the internet, for details call 815-774-9220. Prayer service at 7:00 PM Officiating: Fr. Steve Vithos of All Saints Greek Orthodox Church, Joliet, IL.

Funeral services for Dr. Josette Marie Behrend-Harris will be held from Delgado Funeral Chapel Wednesday September 1, 2010 at 9:00 AM to St. John's Catholic Church 404 N. Hickory St. Joliet, IL for a 11:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial. Officiating: Fr. Fred Radtke
Interment: Mount Olivet Cemetery

Cemetery Details

Mount Olivet Cemetery & Garden Mausoleum

1320 E. Cass St.
Joliet, IL 60432

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 31. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Delgado Funeral Chapel
400 Landau Ave.
Joliet, IL 60432
(815) 774-9220
delgadofunerals@gmail.com
<https://DelgadoFunerals.com>

Visitation

SEP 1. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Delgado Funeral Chapel
400 Landau Ave.
Joliet, IL 60432
(815) 774-9220
delgadofunerals@gmail.com
<https://DelgadoFunerals.com>

Service

SEP 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
404 Hickory St.
Joliet, IL 60435

Tribute Wall



“ *Delgado Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Josette Marie Behrend-Harris (nee Midlock)*



Delgado Funeral Chapel - August 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Delgado Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Josette Marie Behrend-Harris (nee Midlock)*



Delgado Funeral Chapel - August 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dr. Josette Marie Behrend-Harris (nee Midlock)*

January 28, 2023 at 11:56 AM

SB

“ *Stuart Baumann: I remember her warm smile, genial personae, and awesome pianism! We both shared a love of the music of Franz Liszt! I heard Josette performe the B-Minor Sonate(wicked piece, lol) and the First Mephisto Waltz. AMAZING!!!! Josette inspired me to tackle the Liszt B-minor Sonate. I have my copy with all her markings and emmendations! Josette loved humanity and loved life and lived it to the fullest every single day. I remember all the jocular tunes we made up together when she would pick me up at the train station in Joliet when I would come out to meet her for lunch from Chicago. We'd get to her house, have coffee, chat, then always we went to Al's restaurant in Joliet.What a beautiful heart! What a noble person! I miss you more than words can illustrate, as I know everyone misses you, and you dear husband Jim. I'm so glad you had the time together with him that you did, and that your life shined on him, as it did with all your loved ones. Requiescat in Pace.*

Stuart Baumann - November 09, 2010 at 11:14 PM

SB

“ *Stuart Baumann: I remember Josette's warm smile, her passion for music, her devotion to the church, the beauty of her nature, and fostering care to all the students and friends who were in her life. When I was preparing Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with the VanderCook College of Music Wind Ensemble in the Summer of 1991, Josette was at all my rehearsals, encouraging and guiding me. Josette was also at the performance that warm, sunny July day in 1991, and after the performance gave me a big hug and smiled and we embraced in happiness. Then we went downtown Chicago(only 3 miles from the old VanderCook building on South Michigan Avenue) for a celebratory supper, and shared laughs and fellowship. I miss you very much Dear Josette, my piano teacher, mentor and my great friend. Oh yes, P.S. I remember a lively time when I got to close to Charlie(when I wanted to pet him), and Zap! He bit me, I'm laughing cause I know how protective and jealous birds can be, having one myself! God Bless you always, Josette.*

Stuart Baumann - November 07, 2010 at 11:05 PM

MC

“ *I just remember how my grandma "Antoinette" loved to spend time with Josette. Josette was such a kind friend to her and would play the piano at her request. They would watch old movies and truly enjoy each others company. I remember her love for her bird and her chubby little dog.*

Matthew Criscione

Matthew Criscione - August 31, 2010 at 04:13 AM

RC

“ *Josette was a dear niece and best friend to my mother, Antoinette Criscione, who passed away several years ago. They had a lot of fun times together. Our deepest sympathy. Richard Criscione family.*

Richard Criscione - August 30, 2010 at 07:35 PM