



Charles Daniel Culbreth

July 5, 1951 - September 27, 2018

CHARLES DANIEL CULBRETH answered the invitation of his God on September 27, 2018, dying as he told so many of his family and friends he wanted to ♡ asleep in his recliner with one of his Frenchies on his lap. It is clear that God blessed Charles with his wish, and we can hear His call "Well done, faithful servant."

Charles was born on July 5, 1951, at what is now Kaweah Delta Hospital in Visalia where his maternal grandparents lived. His grandfather, Charles Hamilton, was one of the original Trustees of College of the Sequoias. His parents, Marvin Derwood Culbreth and Georgia Jeanette Hamilton, together with sister Marva Cheryl, moved to Kingsburg, and then on to Oakland where they remained through Charles' college years. Charles had many wonderful memories of exploring and playing above the Chapel of the Chimes and at the quarry nearby. He excelled in school, taking great interest in music and drama. As a teenager, his father bought him his first electric bass ♡ and the rest was history. Sadly, Charles' father died when he was 15 without being able to hear to fruits of that gift ♡ Charles graduated from Oakland High School in 1969 and attended Cal State Hayward, receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Music. While playing bass in dance bands throughout the Bay Area (Truth ♡ the band that led him to wife, Wendy Evans), his major instrument in college was the flute.

Charles' musicianship as a bassist led him to a job at the Oakland Cathedral under the direction of Fr. Don Osuna. It was there that he developed his love

for the Catholic faith and became a confirmed member of the Catholic Church. Charles' first parish music directorship was in Dublin at St. Raymond's Catholic Church where, in 1973, he married his wife of 44 years on the day after her conversion to the Faith. They served as music ministers together for the parishes of St. Raymond's, Most Precious Blood in Concord and St. John's in El Cerrito until 1987. Charles wrote liturgical music during that time and, with his group, Conversation, gave concerts in the Bay Area, including performances with Bob Hurd and Jeffrey Keyes. Charles' daughters, Charlotte Garcia Da Rosa, Jorja Culbreth-Burnett and Morgan Culbreth, grew up in the midst of the music created and made in their home. All of the girls are musical in their own rights.

Following the death of his mother, Charles moved his family back to Visalia in 1987 to be close to Wendy's mother, Alexis Ohlhoff Evans. He attended Fresno State University and received a Masters degree in Choral Conducting. During his time in Fresno, Charles served as Director of Music at St. John's Cathedral for four years. In 1991, Charles centered his work in Visalia, teaching Choir and Fine Arts at Green Acres Middle School and, with Wendy, offering music ministry at Holy Family Parish. In 1993, Msgr. Thomas Kleinhans asked Charles to direct music ministry at St. Mary's Church where he remained until his retirement in July of 2017. After nine years at Green Acres, Charles directed the Redwood High School Choral Department for seven years. He retired from public school teaching and became the music teacher for George McCann Catholic School. Mr. C dedicated his efforts at GMC to the fostering of "singing young Catholics", liturgical awareness, general music skills, outstanding Christmas and Spring Sing programs, the Eighth Grade Bell Choir for which he wrote all of the scores, including Stairway to Heaven and, not to be forgotten, his annual role as emcee for the Halloween Parade.

Charles enjoyed his year of retirement, spending time with Charley and Mimi, his French Bulldogs, and making trips to visit Morgan in Seattle and Jorja in Sonoma. He rejoined the GMC community in August and led the Bell Choir at

the recent Fatima Rosary ♦ his last musical offering in this life ♦

Charles is survived by his wife, Wendy, daughters Charlotte (Joe) Da Rosa, Jorja (Chad) Burnett and Morgan, his grandsons Jonathan Edward Da Rosa and Joseph Charles Da Rosa, granddaughter Jessie Lynn Picklo-Da Rosa and her son, Spencer Flynn Airoso. He is also survived by his sister, Marva Cheryl Culbreth, his sister-in-law, and son Kyle Eichelkraut, Susan Evans and her children, Nadia Ricci, Ben Ricci and Michaela Evans, and beloved Culbreth cousins in North Carolina with whom he shared many wonderful visits and online communications through the years.

Charles' worldwide community of liturgical colleagues will carry on his crusade for beauty in worship and right relationship of musical expression in the Roman Catholic Church.

We who remain have been given his incredible gift of musical composition. For the community, a tribute to Jimi Hendrix arranged for the Tulare County Symphony featuring senior musicians from Redwood High School (now professional musicians) and choral arrangements (additional) for the original musical, Rancho Tesoro, written by TCOE Theater Company's founding director, Brian Roberts, and performed by TCOE Theater Company. His many liturgical compositions, some of which are included on the CD, Here in the Dust, include an arrangement of Whatsoever You Do (Jabusch), and original compositions This Is My Body, The Farewell, Ave Verum Corpus, Anima Christi, By the Streams of Babylon, The Salt Doll (for Joyce Imbach), Song of Commitment, On Our Way (for sister, Marva), Shaughnessy Fanfare (for Kevin Shaughnessy), O God of Loveliness and In Paradisum (for Judy Garcia, mother of Joe Da Rosa). All of these offerings live on to the Glory of God. May he rest in peace. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Charles' memory to the Catholic School of Visalia ♦ George McCann campus (for choir risers), Good Shepherd Catholic Parish (Music Ministry), Redwood High School Choral

Department or Green Acres Middle School Choral Program.

Visitation will be held Thursday, October 4, 2018 from 4:00PM to 7:00PM at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Mass will be Celebrated Saturday, October 6, 2018 at 10:30 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Visalia. A reception will immediately follow at St. Charles Borromeo Church 5049 Caldwell Ave. Visalia, CA 93277.

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Condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **4.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 East Caldwell
Visalia, CA 93277

Memorial Mass

OCT **6.** 10:30 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Visalia, CA
608 N. Church Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles Daniel Culbreth*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - September 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *Dear Wendy and Family, We are so sorry to hear of Charles's passing. We know he was a treasure to his family, students and community. He made a lasting difference in the life of our daughter, Lee. May we say again: "Thank you, Charles." Pamela and Carl Faller, and Lee Faller Burgess and Family, Sean, Penn and Ada.*

Pamela N Faller - October 07, 2018 at 06:41 PM


Michelle
Woo

“ *I was so sad to hear of Charles' passing. I had the honor of singing in the childrens' choir at St John's with Charles where I developed a love of worship during my elementary school years. As a youth, I looked up to Wendy and Charles and I cherished the short time I had with them. They even trusted me to babysit their girls when they were wee ones several times. Wendy and the girls, I am praying for comfort and courage during this difficult time and know that you are in my thoughts and well loved!*
Michelle Woo

Michelle Woo - October 06, 2018 at 02:01 AM

PH

“ Wendy and family,

Paul and I were shocked and sad to hear on the passing of Charles. Charles and you have been such good friends and mentors to our family over the years. You both blessed Corinne and Paul with the opportunity to share their love of singing through spiritual prayer. Charles dedication and talent to the music ministry at St Mary's was a gift that kept on giving through the years. Charles inspired all choir members to sing at their best and both of you encouraged and supported life-long friendships of choir members and their families. We will always keep Charles, you and your family in our hearts and prayers.

*God bless,
Paul and Beckee*

Paul and Beckee Hobson - October 04, 2018 at 04:40 PM

RB

“ Ron and Bryan Barsamian purchased the With Distinction for the family of Charles Daniel Culbreth.



Ron and Bryan Barsamian - October 03, 2018 at 12:20 PM

SG

“ Mr. C had a very strong presence at George McCann. I, too, was amazed at his musical talent. He put together the most beautiful Christmas concerts and Spring Sings with our students. He didn't just teach music. He shared his faith weekly during class. Our Friday masses often brought tears to my eyes as he led our students in beautiful song. Thank you, Mr. C, and the Culbreth family for sharing your gift of music and faith to our school. You will be greatly missed.

Sara Gonzales

Sara Gonzales - October 02, 2018 at 11:46 PM



“ I was one of the students that followed Mr. C from Green Acres to Redwood; he was my teacher for six years. He let me join Ranger Choir my senior year even though I was no good and he gave me a D even though I stopped showing up, which allowed me to graduate on time. I've always appreciated him. I'm sorry to see him go, my condolences to his remaining family. God Bless.

Erik Back - October 02, 2018 at 08:21 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Charles Daniel Culbreth.



October 01, 2018 at 11:48 PM

JM

“ Charles was special in sharing his love of music with the students of GMC. As the third grade teacher, I would sit in the back of his class and marvel at his total commitment to sharing his talent and love of his God through chanting, reviewing upcoming songs for masses and preparing for the spring sing.

He and Wendy kindly accepted my invitation to sing/play at my 50th wedding anniversary mass. They, along with Fr. Rod, made our day such a wonderful memory.

I taught his grandson Jonathan and saw the love he had for him. It shown in his eyes whenever we talked about him.

My life has been enriched by his friendship. May he enjoy heaven and being “home”.

Judy Marconi

Judy Marconi - October 01, 2018 at 11:25 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Charles Daniel Culbreth.



October 01, 2018 at 09:39 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Charles Daniel Culbreth.*



September 30, 2018 at 10:42 PM



“ *Charles brought music to the lives he touched, and the music plays on with songs of beautiful hopes and wonderful memories of yesterday. I will always cherish the years that I worked with Charles at Green Acres and later at Redwood. His music lives on in the hearts of his students and colleagues.*

Claudia Maddox

claudia Maddox - September 30, 2018 at 10:35 PM



Wonderful memories of the St Johns Choir led by Charles. My love of hymns is embedded in these memories of Charles” musical talent. So sad to hear of his passing! Love and prayers to the Culbreth family.

Teresa Bolla - October 01, 2018 at 09:19 AM



“ *He was a great man. I remember him at Green Acres I tried out for the musical in 7th grade and he really liked how I sang. He got me into choir at Green Acres. He will surely be missed.*

Hector Tirado

Hector Tirado - September 30, 2018 at 10:16 PM

PF

“ Dearest Wendy, Charlotte, Jorja and Morgan, I am deeply saddened to hear of Charles' passing. He touched the lives of so many people. Those years at St. John's were magical. I feel honored to have sung with him, to have heard him sing and play, and to have known him. Over the years I have often told my family of my "amazing choir director". They never met him, but they know all about him. I still carry with me all that I learned from him. He is loved and remembered by so many, not only for his beautiful music, but for the kind, generous, funny and wise person that he was. Sending you my love and deepest condolences. Know that I will be keeping you all in my prayers.
Paola Franceschi

Paola Franceschi - September 30, 2018 at 02:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles Daniel Culbreth.



September 30, 2018 at 11:58 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Daniel Culbreth.



September 29, 2018 at 02:25 PM

DJ

“ I only knew Charlie in passing, from funerals at St. Mary's and his occasional visits to Saturday Cup of Jazz at Cafe 210. Wendy is a Redwood High School classmate. I enjoyed his company and his music. He touched a lot of lives, and all of those folks carry a part of him with them. I pray God's Grace flow over Wendy , their family, and all who knew him, giving Comfort and Strength in this time of separation and sadness. We mourn and grieve, but also celebrate who and what he was, and where we believe he has gone. Bon Voyage, Charlie, until we meet again up yonder.

Donald Johnson (RHS 72)

Donald Johnson - September 29, 2018 at 02:33 AM

DM

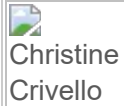
“ I was a student of his in 92-93 at green acres. I loved being in his class and watching how passionate he was about music. He cared and about us and his music program.

My 7th grade year I wasn't part of the choir but I remember it was about 20-30 kids. In 8th grade, I joined his largest boys chorus, at that time, of over 50 boys. Then I heard the program grew to almost 80 kids the following year.

I was also part of his first ever mixed choir that we kids had volunteered to be a part of. We all had to show up to school at 7 am because we didn't have school time to practice but he was there leading us into uncharted territory towards our goal of superior performance.

I am deeply saddened to know he won't be making music anymore but I feel fortunate to have the memories of being his student.

Daniel M. - September 29, 2018 at 02:18 AM



Christine Crivello

“ I was in Mr.C's choir during his first 4 years at Redwood. He was a very caring, dedicated choir director. He LOVED music, and he LOVED sharing that love with us. He brought back Redwood's choirs from the dead. Blew away judges with our music and won superiors at competitions, something Redwood hadn't been able to do since the late 80's. He will forever be loved and remembered!!



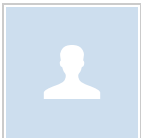
Christine Crivello - September 28, 2018 at 11:52 PM



“ To Wendy and the family, let me say that I am sorry to hear of Charles passing. I have not forgotten his support and kindness when I was first teaching. He was supportive to me during my short time at Valley Oak Middle School and was instrumental in pointing me towards my teaching position at Hanford High School. I am forever grateful. I'm sure that over the next few weeks many more inspiring stories will be posted. Most importantly, I have no doubt that Charles is now at peace with God.

With much love,
Aaron Mosley

Aaron Mosley - September 28, 2018 at 11:43 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Daniel Culbreth.



September 28, 2018 at 10:43 PM