



Gordon E. Tjernlund

July 9, 1924 - August 25, 2018

Gordon Ellis Tjernlund was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 9, 1924 to Ellis and Mildred Tjernlund. He and Mary were married 41 years and together have six children, Marie (Chris), Sue, Wes, Tim, George (Diana) and John (Brenda); they have nine grandchildren, Zach, Tyler, Scott, Dillon, Garrett, Ily, Nicole, Joseph, Jacob and many great grandchildren. Gordon's only sister, Betty is deceased.

Her served two and a half years in the Air Force during WWII in the China, Burma and & India Theater. Following his military service he sang in a gospel quartet on the radio six days a week for four years.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota, a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Oregon, and an Administrative Certificate. He was a music supervisor of the public schools in Fairmont, Minnesota, teaching there 4 years. He taught high school vocal music in McMinnville for 9 years, followed by teaching at Highland View Jr. High in Corvallis, and was choir director at Crescent Valley High School. After having taught 33 years, he retired as a full-time teacher in 1983. He continued to substitute in 32 schools in music for many years because he enjoyed music education. He taught for a total of 50 years.

Gordon served as president of the Corvallis Education Association, president of the Oregon chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, state chairman of the Oregon Music Educators Association, and president of the

Corvallis-OSU Music Association. He was a life member of the National Educators Association. He had several music publications.

He adjudicated international, national, state and district large group and solo contests. He was on the Adjudication Panel of Johnny Mann's, "The American Choral Festival" with Norman Luboff, Henry Mancini, Ralph Carmichael, Fred Waring and other renowned musicians. At the 1981 National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in New Orleans, his Crescent Valley High School Men's Chorus sang and was honored as the best high school men's chorus in the nation.

His choirs competed in other states and won many first place trophies. He recruited an adult choir that sang in Carnegie Hall in New York City. For ten years he was the Director of the State OSAA Choral Contest at LaSells Stewart Center on the Oregon State University campus. On October 16, 2000, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Oregon School Activities Association from service to Interscholastic Activities.

He was Director of Music at First Baptist Church of Corvallis for many years and while there organized the nearly monthly Christian Artist Concert Series and The Corvallis Choir Festival which ran for 12 years with various churches as hosts to multiple church choirs joining for annual concerts. He directed Town Choir, and was founding director of Travelin' Gospel Singers, Sonshine Singers, Master's Men, and O.K. Chorale. For several years he volunteered at various prisons and enjoyed helping the inmates sing in choirs with "God's Word in Song". His joys are the Lord, Mary, family and friends, especially golf buddies!

Family and friends are invited to a Memorial Concert by "The Master's Men" in Gordon's honor, 3:00 pm, Sunday, October 14, 2018 at the First Baptist Church, 125 NW 10th Street, Corvallis.

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.demossturda.com

Previous Events

Musical Celebration

OCT **14**. 3:00 PM (PT)

First Baptist Church
125 NW 10th St
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

NR

“ I enjoyed knowing Gordon as a friend and as my choir director at 1st Baptist, Corvallis. He was a professional of professionals. His meticulous directing and encouraging pointers blessed us as we enjoyed the music that inspired us in the Lord and renewed our dedication. I have thought of the many nights I went to choir practice tired after a long day's work to leave feeling better than I arrived.

I can only imagine Gordon singing to the Savior he loved with a host of those who now have perfect pitch!

Mary, I only heard last night of Gordon's passing. My heart is hurting with you, but you have nothing but praise from those of us who admired your love for Gordon that encouraged and reassured him of your love as you cared for him so tenderly when he needed you the most.

God bless and hold you, Sweet One.

Nancy Rose - December 20, 2018 at 01:49 AM

RF

“ Mr. Tjernlund was my Highland View JH choir teacher. A few years later, after he began teaching at CVHS, I saw him at a basketball game where I was a cheerleader for the rival, CHS. He caught me after the game and warned me not to yell too loud, because singing was a lifelong skill, and he'd hate to see me ruin my voice because of cheerleading!

I heeded his advice and chose not to go out for cheer my senior year, and instead chose more choir and theatre options. I still sing and play guitar on the worship team in my church, and have passed that advice on to my daughters!

I'm thankful for that advice he gave me, and will tell him so, myself one day in the presence of our King!

Rita (Railsback) Flatz - September 23, 2018 at 04:31 PM

GB

“ Mary was our two son's piano teacher for many years back in the 1990's. Mary gave the instruction at her residence. We would schedule lessons right after eachother so as one boy was with Mary the other boy would get to watch golf on TV with Gordy. Gordy would explain the game to them. Gordy and Mary treated our sons and the both of us with such kindness. We became good friends and though we did not see eachother enough over the years, when we did see them it was like no time had passed at all. What great people! We will miss Gordy so very much. We are positive the gates of Heaven were opened wide for his arrival.

Gary and Denise Boldizsar

Gary and Denise Boldizsar - August 31, 2018 at 09:19 PM

GK

“ George Knox lit a candle in memory of Gordon E. Tjernlund



George Knox - August 31, 2018 at 06:52 PM

HE

George - I am your old next door neighbor from very long ago from Roosevelt Drive in Corvallis...I reconnected with your mom and TJ when I began going to the Grant Avenue Baptist Church during my high school years. Sincere condolences to you, your mom, brother John, and other siblings. TJ was a great man.

Heather Rae Engberg - September 22, 2018 at 03:50 PM

GK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



George Knox - August 31, 2018 at 06:52 PM

CM

“ A finer man was never sent to earth than TJ, and my short time with him continues to bless me to this day. I will never, ever forget him, and I now know the Choir of Angels has a proper Director.

Cyndi Jarvis Marrs - August 31, 2018 at 11:18 AM

DS

“ *David Todd Singleton lit a candle in memory of Gordon E. Tjernlund*



David Todd Singleton - August 30, 2018 at 11:33 PM

DS

“ My name is David Todd Singleton and I was known only as David Singleton when TJ and I met in 1978 when I began my first year at Crescent Valley High School. I was the pianist for the mens' choir as well as the women's choir; sang in the concert choir as well as lead vocals in the vocal jazz group. TJ and Mary, his wife were christian people; very dedicated to their faith and TJ also directed music programs in local churches and around the state. Being that my Mom mostly raised her 6 children alone; me being the youngest, TJ kind of became a mentor to me and a conduit of sage advice; both in my spiritual and professional music life as well as an interim father of sorts. He and his wife Mary both had a kindness without judgement. Mary was always like this movie star when she would suddenly appear at the school and sweep into the choir room with her amazing face and stunning eyes. Beautiful beautiful lady. And you could tell they shared a love for the ages. Their children knew it too and respected and admired them and treated them with the utmost respect as did we all.

I went on to do some pretty great things including singing backup vocals for Robert Palmer on 'Addicted To Love' and recording with Fleetwood Mac. I also wrote and sang and arranged music for Wynonna Judd / Steve Winwood / Amy Grant and others from tv reality shows such as America's Got Talent / X Factor / The Voice (Jordan Smith) as well as the bulk of most of my current work: writing themesongs for motion pictures including Avatar II and the upcoming latest installment of the Bond franchise: BOND25 with our title themesong: EMPIRE OF LIES.

Although my father played guitar for Chet Atkins and my grandfather was the 2nd conductor for the philharmonic in NY, I really feel I owe most of the beef and guts of my music education to Gordon Tjernlund or TJ. I think he knows how I felt about him. Lessie Cronk and I and Karen Hector and Chris Bowman and Peter and Sue and so many others will always remember him with the fondest of memories and gratitude.

I literally am crying as I write this. You know I loved you TJ. I know you do.

And Mary, you know how I feel.

I send you all - ALL of my best and heartfelt condolences during this time.

I love you and wish that I could be there to lend my voice in your musical tribute.

I hope that Corvallis erects a statue honoring Gordon Tjernlund sometime in the future.

Perhaps I can come home soon and help finance that with a benefit concert.

To anyone and everyone who might read this and have known me and been a part of our story, I send all my love to you and your families and wish you nothing but joy well and peace well into the future.

My own mother just turned 81 this year and had to be placed in a senior rehab center for dementia in Maitland, Florida. I also got my music from her as she sat beside me on the piano bench as a little boy and helped me make my fingers make sense of all the passion and talent that lay latent and impatient at the ready. She was my biggest fan and admirer for most of her life. Every now and then, we have a lucid moment.

Last year, upon hearing of her condition, I wrote a song about dementia called, GONE TO VELVET that the national organization for dementia and alzheimers adopted as their themesong. It's doing well to raise money and awareness for these wicked diseases and somewhat offering me solace in my own loss.

Blessed be the teachers who pass everything they have on to those that are driven by the muse of song.

Blessed be the angels for receiving such akin as TJ.

May they listen as he directs and conjures them to heights they've never known existed.

For that's what he did for me.

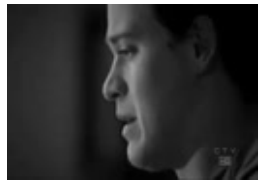
With all my heart and endless admiration and love!

David Todd Singleton

David Todd Singleton - August 30, 2018 at 11:29 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



David Todd Singleton - August 30, 2018 at 10:50 PM

DK

“ *TJ was my favorite teacher! He was my choir and vocal jazz ensemble teacher and I was also his teacher's aide at CV 1972-1974. As a joke he called me Debbie Reynolds which I always thought was special. Over the years I haven't been able to see him but I have thought of him often and the fun we had singing and traveling (went to Expo in Spokane for a competition and competing at Mt. Hood Community College) He will be missed! He's rejoicing in heaven now and for that I am thankful even though it makes me sad to think he's no longer with us. Much love to you and prayers for your family for God's comfort!*

Debbie Elliott King - August 30, 2018 at 04:41 PM



“ TJ was my choir, guitar, vocal jazz ensemble and music theory instructor at CV from 1975-1978. He had a huge impact on my life and was hands down my best and favorite teacher. He will be missed, but never forgotten.

RIP TJ

Ron Elliott - August 30, 2018 at 04:13 PM

“ Gordon, my friend I know you're enjoying heavenly music, more than most. From those long ago days when we were both much younger and you inspired and taught me, to these later days when we would have short visits that always left me smiling. One couldn't help but feel good in conversations with you, you just brought out the best, most positive feelings in people. Such a good guy, you will be remembered by many for the joy you brought to all of us and I know that I'm a better person because of you. You started as my music teacher and our lives merged again through the Credit Union. I've been so lucky to have you as a part of my life for so long. I will truly miss you. - Joe

Joe Tofte - August 30, 2018 at 12:40 PM



“ One of CVHS best teachers. He inspired many. His students called him TJ .I was in Girls choir and Mixed. He was a kind and caring person. God bless you TJ ..Sheila Motko.

Sheila Motko - August 30, 2018 at 11:39 AM