



## Sandra Clark

October 30, 1959 - July 12, 2014

Sandra Clark passed away July 12, 2014, at her home in Toledo surrounded by her family. Sandra was born Stewart D. Clark on October 30, 1959 in Decatur, Illinois and grew up in San Jose, CA where she benefited from an outstanding public school music program. Sandra attended San Jose State University where she studied horn with the ever patient Dr. William George, earning a BA in music performance in 1982. After a two year stint as an insurance salesperson, phone solicitor and other such jobs, she decided she'd rather play the horn, and so went to The Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where she studied with Lowell Greer, and earned a Master of Music in 1987.

"Lowell opened up a whole New World of horn sound and style for me. As anyone who has heard his recordings will know, his playing is unique. Having grown up in California, I was very much into the Hollywood sound and style, but could never quite say what I wanted that way. By imitating Lowell's approach, I've been able to arrive at a sound and style that, while not (hopefully) a slavish copy of my mentor, speaks from my heart."

She has performed as Principal Horn with the Toledo Symphony since 1990 and also worked in the Symphony office organizing out of town concerts. Prior to that she spent four years as 4th horn of the Dayton Philharmonic, and played horn with the Chicago Chamber Brass in 1989. Her love of orchestral

repertoire was matched only by her interest in chamber music, especially recital playing. Sandra has given recitals in Toledo, Cincinnati, California and New Mexico.

Sandra enjoyed success with solo competitions. She was a first prizewinner in The Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition as a member of The Taft Wind Quintet, and a finalist in four previous American Horn Competitions: 1987 in the University Division and 1989, 1997 and 2001 in the Professional Division. In 1997 and 2001, she went on to win the second prize in the Professional Division.

Sandra was a big fan of drum and bugle corps performance and marched with the Concord Blue Devils for several years. She later became a teacher, mentor and eventual board member to the Toledo Glassmen and facilitated several performances in which members of the Glassmen performed as offstage brass with the Toledo Symphony. Sandra was also active in the Toledo community as a private French Horn teacher and brass coach.

The music of Alec Wilder was another of Sandra's loves; in 2004 she produced and performed on a recording featuring Wilder's music with some Toledo Symphony colleagues. "The Suite: Music of Alec Wilder" received critical acclaim, and brought to life some forgotten gems from an American maverick.

Near the end of her life, Sandra ventured into composition, composing and conducting "Letter to Sarah" for chamber orchestra, based on a series of letters written by Sullivan Ballou during the Civil War. A reading of the piece may be seen on YouTube via this link.

Sandra had a fantastic work ethic, practicing until late after rehearsals and then waking early to continue practicing. She never chose the easy way out.

Her life was filled with difficult decisions, which made her a strong, independent, and compassionate woman. She loved staying at home with her Dachshunds, Willy and Frank, wrapped up in reading a good mystery, with a pot of chili and some chocolate chip cookies. She was preceded in death by her parents Gerald and Rita Clark, and her brother Scott Clark. She is survived by her children Monica and Maria, her sister Gina Lounds and her close friends Kathy Widlar and Jan Schemenauer.

Professional services were provided by Coyle Funeral Home. A Memorial Service will be held at The Monroe Street United Methodist Church on Thursday, July 17 with visitation from 1-3 p.m. followed by a celebration of her life.

The family would like to thank Heartland Hospice, and friends for their help in providing comfort in Sandra's final days. Flowers may be sent to Coyle Funeral Home. Contributions may be made to the Toledo Symphony Orchestra or to the Toledo Youth Symphony Orchestra. Please view Sandra's memorial tribute video and share a memory or condolence at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ I was the Associate Conductor for the Toledo Symphony for 7 years. Sandra was my friend and encourager during this time for me. She was a calming presence in my life during a very stressful growth period for me. We would have the most amazing lunches at the Art Museum. She was someone I could trust and open up to without worry. I miss her. Rest in Peace my Dear Friend.

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**Chelsea Tipton** - March 11, 2021 at 11:48 AM

ST

“ Sandra was an amazing woman and an amazing teacher. I only knew her for a few years but in that short time I learned a lot from her, not just about playing French Horn. She will be missed for years to come.

- Sarah T.

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**Sarah T.** - November 07, 2017 at 09:37 PM

NH

“ I played French Horn all throughout High School, and only became the best I could be because I learned from the best there was. My condolences to the family of Sandra. I know she will live on in many of our hearts.

Nicole Harrison

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**Nicole Harrison** - July 22, 2014 at 08:07 PM

LC

“ We feel blessed to have known Sandra. We loved to hear her special music in church and at the symphony. We will miss her kindness and her smile. Clark and Lynda Collins and Noah

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**Lynda Collins** - July 21, 2014 at 01:19 PM

DA

“ My heart breaks for Sandra's family right now. Sandra was an amazing person who I feel fortunate to have known. I pray that Monica, Maria, and Kathy can find some comfort during this time. Sandra will definitely be missed by many.

*Love, Dawn (Hall) Walker*

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**Dawn** - July 18, 2014 at 09:55 PM

BB

“ I am sorry to hear of Sandra's passing. I will miss her friendliness at the Toledo Symphony office. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Bill Brancheau (TSO volunteer)*

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**Bill Brancheau** - July 17, 2014 at 10:09 AM

TP

“ I worked for Sandra for several summers at the symphony helping with telephone and subscription sales while I was a student at the University of Toledo. This was during her transition period, and I can say I am honored to have known her. She was a wonderful person, an incredible musician, and a brave soul. My deepest sympathies for all of you at this time.

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**Todd Peitz** - July 16, 2014 at 05:10 PM

AA

“ I got to know Sandra as she came to me for lessons in Pilates, a mind-body movement discipline. She worked with all of her focus and intention in our sessions and I could see the habits that made her an accomplished musician. She took her breathing and movements very seriously, truly wanting to understand the essence of the exercises and apply them to her playing and her running. She was a joy to have as a student, because of that dedication, but more so because of her sweetness. She would come into my studio and immediately pick up and cuddle my senior Chihuahua dogs. She sent sympathy cards for them when they passed. Sandra was generously my champion, recommending me to her friends and colleagues and suggesting ideas to help me market my business. She also tried setting me up for dates a few times. I always looked forward to our lessons and to meeting her backstage after a concert. I admired her ability to persevere through multiple abdominal exercises, and as she was ill and finishing her season. I will miss her. My thoughts are with her beloved daughters, family and friends.

Amy Adamczak

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Amy Adamczak - July 16, 2014 at 02:52 PM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Sandra Clark.



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July 16, 2014 at 09:09 AM

KS

“ I subbed for one year in the Toledo Symphony. Sandra was always kind and nice to me, at a stressful time. It sounds like a little thing, but it meant a lot to me. My condolences. I'm sorry for your loss. -  
Kathy Shanklin

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**Katherine Shanklin** - July 15, 2014 at 09:29 PM

JW

“ To the Clark family:  
Sandra did so much for the students in the Band & Orchestra at Toledo School for the Arts. She never hesitated to go above and beyond if she thought the students would benefit, often giving of her own time just because it would help them. Most of this work was offered without fanfare and behind the scenes. I will be forever grateful for her enthusiastic service to these young musicians. My deepest condolences to all.  
Jay Welenc, Conductor  
TSA Band & Orchestra

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**Jay Welenc** - July 15, 2014 at 05:24 PM

BS

“ Dear Monica and Maria.....Laurel told us of Sandra s passing.....Please accept John and my deepest sympathies.....Im sure your many happy memories will get you through this very sad period....Our thoughts and prayers are with you...Love Barbie and John Schulien

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**Barbie Schulien** - July 15, 2014 at 04:51 PM

MS

“ Love, compassion, admiration....My prayers are with you.  
Molly Stuckey

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**Molly Stuckey** - July 15, 2014 at 01:03 PM

CG

“ *Monica and Maria, I looked at the video and realized the depth of Sandra's beauty, compassion for music and humanity, and the love she shared with her family. I am so very grateful of the opportunity to meet Sandra. I continue to pray for understanding and comfort during a time of sorrow.*

*Christine Gurley*

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**Christine Gurley** - July 15, 2014 at 12:34 PM

LL

“ *I met Sandra thru the Young Peoples Concerts that she organized and I ushered for. I only knew her as Sandra and loved her sweet spirit and brisk, generous attitude. We only spoke a few times and shared a meal at the Musicians "thank You" Dinner, but I loved the way she spoke to the kids, her enthusiasm for her music and upcoming performances, and seeing her perform with the TSO, I wish we had a chance to know each other better. I will miss her.*

*Lynda Lieto*

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**Lynda Lieto** - July 15, 2014 at 12:03 PM

CB

“ *Dear Monica and Maria  
I'm sorry to hear of your sad loss. I will keep your family in my prayers.*

*Mrs. Best*

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**Charlotte Best** - July 15, 2014 at 11:53 AM

HM

“ Heather, Bob, and Miriam purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Sandra Clark.



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Heather, Bob, and Miriam - July 15, 2014 at 11:41 AM

John Putnam

“ Sandra was more than kind to me on so many occasions. She constantly encouraged me and offered advice when she didn't have to. She always went out of her way to talk to me, listen to my horn playing, and just be down right cool. She taught me so many things about how to be a musician, friend, and professional. Many of times I sat next to her or listened to her in the concert hall and was struck by the skill of her artistry. She was an inspiration on so many levels. All who knew her were blessed to have crossed paths with her. She once said to me, “to have endurance we must first endure.” She certainly did just that, continuing to make music while battling cancer. She will be missed beyond what words can describe. RIP Sandra

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John Putnam - July 15, 2014 at 10:51 AM

CV

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - July 15, 2014 at 10:32 AM

RW

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Sandra's passing. Kathy, Monica and Maria, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Robin Von Wald - July 15, 2014 at 09:40 AM

EM

“ Etta McGee lit a candle in memory of Sandra Clark



Etta McGee - July 14, 2014 at 11:22 PM

JU

“ Although I've only met Sandra in person a couple of times, she is such a strong figurehead for me - I have always admired her, professionally and personally. Your strength will live on in others, Sandra.

Just - July 14, 2014 at 10:15 PM

JN

“ "It seems so.... not true, that Sandra is gone", says my wife Ana. I am so grateful to have known Sandra. She was willing to mentor and assist me even though I am only a novice. She helped us all get to the ProAm Concert with the Symphony, an unbelievable experience for me. I have a garden, and relished the glee Sandra would have at receiving some of my home grown sweet corn. I will miss this giant in the industry. Her passing will leave a huge whole in all our lives. We love you, Sandra.

John Nicholson - July 14, 2014 at 09:36 PM

GL

“ *Gina and Terry Lounds purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Sandra Clark.*



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**Gina and Terry Lounds** - July 14, 2014 at 03:06 PM