



David Samuel Miller

April 8, 2018

Hello family and friends. Thank you for taking the time to visit this page. Below, please find my tribute to my dad, as posted on facebook. Below that, you can find details and parking suggestions for both the memorial, and the reception afterward, and below that, please find our selection for an organization to donate to, in Dad's memory, in lieu of sending flowers. Again, thank you for your attention, friendship, and love. I am very much looking forward to seeing you all on May 11.

Sincerely,
Ben Miller

Tribute:

On Sunday April 7th, 2018, at around 10PM, my dad passed away. He lost a brief but immensely heroic struggle with a failing, seventy-six year old heart. He received astonishingly attentive and respectful care at Toronto General Hospital, and passed away surrounded by me, mom, and Genevieve.

For those of you who weren't lucky enough to know him, David Samuel Miller was an astonishingly great man. He came from a kind of adverse childhood

that not many of us have had to experience, and he managed to shrug off, (or maybe just ignore? in that marvelous, intensely strong David way) almost all of the demons that remained with him once he managed to escape.

He and my mother separated when I was two, but they still loved each other, and lived mere blocks apart. I was free as a child to go between houses as I wanted. Living alone, never dating again after mom, dad gave me a beautiful half of my childhood. Spoiled me rotten. I was left wanting for nothing. An avid "Boys Club" member in his youth, we built an electric train set the entire size of my bedroom, which folded up onto one wall. He drove me to every single softball game, in Willowdale or further, for 6+ years. He took me to almost every Karate class, for the same amount of time. When I was having a tough time in grade school, he was there, sitting on the bench every day after school, waiting to pick me up, so that I would never be alone. We hung out Sunday mornings and watched cartoons. We talked about baseball, and music, and built Lego together. He would have done all of these things ten times more, each, if that's what I'd wanted. He loved me with such an intensity that it vibrated the air around us.

Dad was a cellist, a conductor, a composer, arranger, and music appreciation teacher. In my youth, he conducted the Oakville Symphony, played principal Cello in the North York Symphony, and taught continuing education Music Appreciation classes at George Brown, to adoring elder students. His musical ability was passed to him by his two parents, both of whom were immensely talented classical string players as well. He was an almanac of classical music history. His love for a well-played symphony, a "genius" composer, or a well-danced ballet, again reverberated in the air around him. It was an intensity and passion that growing up seemed normal, but as I spent more time out in the real world, I began to realize how truly ABnormal, how special, how one-of-a-kind, it really was.

Music and me were basically everything to dad, after he retired. He came to every show he could, once I was good enough to be able to perform myself. Beaming from ear to ear. Unabashedly sitting in the front row, unapologetically requiring an uninterrupted view of me. In those moments I feel the entire rest of the world could have faded away, and it was just him and me, in a kind of musical bliss-fantasy world. We should all be lucky to feel these things nearly as strongly as he did.

Dad's one true daemon that he couldn't fully shrug off, or simply ignore, was the one that prevented him from looking after himself in the same way he could look after me. Every ounce of himself was given to me and there just wasn't enough left to be kind to himself. He gained weight throughout my childhood and teen years, and over the past five years or so, increasingly struggled to leave his apartment. To see a 76-year-old 300+ pound man simply walking around, was an astonishing sight to behold. Everything that didn't align, like the fact that he was diabetic, or the fact that he had sleep apnea, was simply ignored. He just kept living his life.

I am tremendously humbled to say that he was able to live out the twilight years of his life, exactly as he wanted to. We hung out and talked about music, and life, just about every weekend. He was truly happy. He virtually never complained. Always positive. Always moving forward. Never looking backward, never still. He had all that he wanted.

Dad, the lessons you taught me, and example you set for me have shaped who I am. I am boundlessly grateful for you. We are so similar, that I hardly need a picture or a video of you to remember you. I can look at my own hands, my face, my emotion, passion, heart, mannerisms, expressions, talents, failings, strength, weakness, and the love that I feel for the things that I care about, and hey - there you are. In that sense, although I can never hug

you again, I can never be without you. Your struggle is over, but the entire summation of your life is now imprinted, and shining, through me.

I will honor your failings, and proudly display your successes in every thing that I do. In this way, it is my life's honor that you can never be forgotten.

I love you dad. Thank you for everything you have done for me.

Rest In Peace.

Memorial information:

Please join us in remembering David Miller, my dad, on Friday May 11th, 2018. The memorial will begin at 1PM, at the Heliconian Club, a venue in which my dad has performed. We expect the memorial to conclude around 3PM. You can expect speeches, and several musical performances. Time permitting, at the end of the memorial, we will open up the floor for anyone wishing to also share their thoughts and memories of David.

The address:

35 Hazelton Avenue

Toronto, Ontario

M5R 2E3

Nearest major intersection: Avenue Rd. and Bloor

www.heliconianclub.org

Travel/parking information, from the Heliconian Club website:

By TTC:

Take the Cumberland exit at the Bay subway station. Cross the pedestrian crosswalk on Cumberland Street. Walk north along the pedestrian walkway to Yorkville Avenue. Cross Yorkville Avenue and continue on Hazelton Avenue, where you will see The Heliconian Hall on your right-hand side just after Scollard Street.

Parking:

The Bloor-Yorkville BIA keeps an up-to-date map with prices of pay parking lot options in Yorkville. It can be viewed here: bloor-yorkville.com/directions/ There is also Green P parking available on most of the streets in the neighborhood, and free parking on Hazelton, though it is often at capacity and is limited to one hour before 6 pm. There are temporary loading zones in front of and adjacent to Heliconian Hall, but they are actively patrolled by bylaw officers, and unless you are visibly in the process of loading, the chances of getting a ticket are high in these zones.

Reception information:

Following the memorial, please join us at Ben and Genevieve's condo party room, (capacity 60) for a chance to unwind, mingle, see some old friends, and maybe even have a drink (or five). There will be catered warm food for dinner (for both carnivores and vegetarians), different alcohol available (although you are welcome to bring your own - there is a fridge), and a beautiful space available to sit and talk. We have the room until midnight, and we will start cleaning it around 11PM. If you do intend to consume alcohol (encouraged), please do not drive!! There is a streetcar stop right out front of the building, and it is a hot zone for Uber and Lyft, both of which generally show up within 3 minutes.

The address:

21 Grand Magazine St.

11th floor party room - use buzzer code 1306 for entry

On the 11th floor, follow signs for "Amenities"

Toronto, ON

M5V 1B5

Nearest major intersection: Bathurst and Lakeshore

By TTC:

Your two best options are the Bathurst streetcar (511) south from Bathurst stn, or the Queen's Quay streetcar (509) west from Union stn. Note - do not take the 510 from Union, as this will turn up Spadina. In both cases exit at the Fleet St. stop, and walk west to Grand Magazine St (TD Bank on the corner).

By Car:

With the time of day, and an expected shortage of parking spots, we suggest an alternate means of transportation - it will likely be faster than driving! If you do wish to drive however, there are two visitor parking lots for our building, with free visitor parking available on a first come, first serve basis. Both require you to get a parking pass from security in the lobby, and spots will be limited, but you are encouraged to try. The first lot is just north of the building, down a small alley, underneath a terrace. There are several visitor spots there. The second option is on the P1 parking level, which you can access from the back of the building, on Ianuzzi St. Buzz security from the pedestal there, and ask them to let you into P1, and let them know you're here for the 11th floor party room event. Assuming there are spots, they will let you in. You'll still need to get a parking pass from security in the lobby. If both visitor lots are full, there are paid parking lots fairly close, as well as some street parking in the area. For potential street parking, we recommend

the area south of Lakeshore - Stadium Rd., Bishop Tutu Blvd., and Little Norway Cres. Please pay very careful attention to parking signs. The area is patrolled often by parking officers and there are many no parking zones. There are also two paid lots fairly close - One at the corner of Strachan and Fleet St, and another at the southern end of Stadium Rd.

Any questions, please email me at benbassmiller@gmail.com. Also, please feel free to leave a memory of dad here on the Tribute Wall tab, or post something on the Photos + Videos tab.

Looking very much forward to sharing a drink, and some fond memories of a beautiful man with you.

Donations:

While this site gracefully suggests sending flowers, and while we are quite grateful if you are considering this, we feel that dad would have..*ahem*.."not cared for"..the idea. Instead, since dad was such a passionate music educator, we feel that he would love, and be honored by, the idea of donating to a cause that furthers the development and education of young classical musicians. To that end, we have selected the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and humbly request that you "donate in memory" of David Samuel Miller. Learn more about the NYO here: <http://nyoc.org/overview2013>, and please see this page for how to "Donate In Memory" of dad: <http://nyoc.org/donate> (and scroll down to "Donate In Memory").

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Heliconian Club
35 Hazelton Avenue
Toronto, ON M5R 2E3 (CA)

Tribute Wall

VG

“ Dear Ben Miller, Your father and I were friends when we both lived in Berkeley during the late 1960's. He was student at Stanford at the time. He and I were both students of Bonnie Hampton. He may have also been student of Colin Hampton. When I knew David he had recently decided to resume the study of the cello, after a period of indecision, and he had purchased an Italian cello from Laszlo Varga, who was teaching cello at San Francisco University, for \$10,000 which he was paying in installments. He and Wendy attended my wedding in Berkeley in August 1970.

David was an enormously attractive person: intellectual, musical, thoughtful, and political. I have a vivid memory of him conducting the B-B no 1 of Villa-Lobos at a concert that Bonnie put together.

I was sorry to hear that he and Wendy had separated, and surprised that he lived alone after that. Women found him very attractive. He must have inherited his poor health from Frank, but I have trouble visualizing him at 300 pounds. I'm so happy he was a good father, You must have given him a great deal of joy.

Victor Garlin (vgarlin@gmail.com)

Victor Garlin - March 05, 2019 at 02:26 AM

PP

“ Hi Ben

You probably won't remember me as you were a baby when I studied with your Dad.

Your wonderful tribute brought back refreshed memories of what a great person and personality he was...I luckily became his student at a crux in my musical existence and it's largely thanks to David that I continued with music and the cello.

His supportive strength of character and conviction as well as his humanity gave me some insight to the political and business side of life that helped me to focus on the most important thing, that which I learned most from him...music!

I'm sorry I can't attend the Memorial but my thoughts go out to you and your Mother.

Sincerely, Peter Parthun

Peter Parthun - May 11, 2018 at 11:39 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of David Samuel Miller.



May 08, 2018 at 08:26 AM

LW

“ Brian tells me of a memory he has of David. David arrives at Virginia's all excited about an old jazz song. He says, "Listen to those jazz chord changes!" This best speaks of David. His fathoms deep passion for any aspect of music: playing music, listening to music, reading about music, composing music, arranging music, conducting music.

His human consciousness is gone. What words can you put to his love of you Ben? Of you Virginia? And your love of him? Somehow for me this quote from a poem by Rumi captures some of this mystery.

*I am a sky where spirits live
Stare into this deepening blue
While the breeze says a secret*

Like this.

*My love to you all.
Laine*

Laine Williams - April 30, 2018 at 08:08 PM

AH

“ All of us at the Oakville Symphony were saddened to hear of David's passing. As music director and conductor of our orchestra for nine years (1987-96), he has been honoured this season, which is our 50th (see attached photo). The OS will pay tribute to David at our May 12th & 13th concerts by performing Elgar's Nimrod. We remember him with gratitude for the significant contribution he made to the development of the orchestra, and our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Anna Hewitt, President of the Oakville Symphony Board of Directors.



Anna Hewitt - April 28, 2018 at 04:08 PM

 Ben Miller

*That is beautiful - thank you so much. I think we will need to try to attend one of those.
Do you have any photos of dad conducting the orchestra? This was such a nice point in his life - I'd love to display a few at the memorial.
Please email benbassmiller@gmail.com*

Once again, a heartfelt thank you for this.

Ben Miller - April 29, 2018 at 10:35 AM

AH

Hi Ben, yes we have a couple, I'll email them to you. Anna

Anna Hewitt - May 04, 2018 at 12:48 AM

BM

“ *I have fond memories of sharing a stand with David for several years in the North York Symphony. He was a wonderful musician and a wonderful man.*

- Barbara Morris

Barbara Morris - April 27, 2018 at 08:52 PM

FS

“ *My dear Ben,
Bill and I are so sorry for your loss. We witnessed your special relationship with your father over the years and were warmed by your perfect tribute to a wonderful dad. We cannot join you on May 11 as we will be in Italy on a music tour. We will think of you on the 11th and send our love.*

Florence Silver and Bill Weiss

Florence Silver - April 27, 2018 at 12:07 PM

EM

“ *David was always so kind whenever I saw him, greeting me each time with such a warm smile. Lovely cello playing too. Thank you for that beautiful tribute to your beloved father, Ben.*

In deepest sympathy,

-Elizabeth Morris

Elizabeth Morris - April 26, 2018 at 10:59 PM

KR

“ Beautifully articulated Ben. He was a musical force in Oakville and that group is where it is today because of his foundational work. I remember him as you describe - simply loving music above most everything else.

- Krista Buckland Reisner

Krista Buckland Reisner - April 25, 2018 at 09:45 PM

SS

“ We remember David, our friend, for many things which are all fine. It was funny when he once drove on the sidewalk around a line of cars to get us to a concert on time. He remains in our hearts.

Suzanne and David Snelling

Suzanne Snelling - April 25, 2018 at 04:06 AM



Ben Miller

That was dad!! Always the "New York driver".
Thanks for this, Suzanne.

Ben Miller - April 26, 2018 at 12:02 AM

KA

“ There's an empty place left in all of us, and I will miss him so very, very much.

I have shared a few thoughts here below. Feel free to share.

<https://www.karasantokie.com/blog/>

Kara - April 23, 2018 at 09:05 AM

SM

“ Dear Ben and Virginia,

I can't add much to Ben's beautiful tribute, you really captured it all. As David's on and off cello student for 25 years, I can only say that I will always be grateful, and never forget, his generosity with his time and immense knowledge of music and of life. He recognized the repressed artist in me and uncovered it. I am sorry his gifts and accomplishments weren't better recognized and rewarded in his lifetime.

I look forward to seeing you both and honouring David's memory on May 11th.

With sympathy,

Stuart Mutch

Stuart Mutch - April 21, 2018 at 07:13 PM

 Ben
Miller

Thank you Stuart - that's beautiful. Looking forward to seeing you again on May 11.

Ben

Ben Miller - April 22, 2018 at 08:40 PM