



## **BENNETT L. HIGGINS**

March 27, 1943 - August 20, 2013

Bennett Leon Higgins, 70, passed away Tuesday, August 20, 2013, after a long struggle with cancer.

Bennett was born on March 27, 1943 in Lexington, KY, as the second of three sons to his late parents, Stanley "Jack" and Ollie B. Higgins. He lived in Lexington and Louisville, KY.

Bennett is survived by his wife, Linda; sons, Leon (Patrice) and Jon (Theresa); grandson, Jacob; brother, Jonathan (Jean); and numerous aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, colleagues, and other loved ones.

The family wishes to thank Alfonso Cervera, M.D., Savita Kumar, P.A., and the staff at the Norton Cancer Institute for their years of dedication to Bennett's care. A special thank you is also extended to the hospital, doctors, and staff at Norton Brownsboro Hospital for their nurturing care of Bennett and family in his last days.

Upon Bennett's request, the family will hold a public Visitation from 5-8 pm, Monday, August 26, 2013 at A. D. Porter & Sons Funeral Home, 1300 W. Chestnut Street, Louisville, KY. The Visitation will include a Memorial Service from his brothers in Kappa Alpha Psi (KAPΨ) Fraternity at 7:15 pm. There will be a private Funeral Service for family to follow on Tuesday, August 27, 2013

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy can be made to the following:

- The School of Music at The University of Louisville for the Bennett Higgins Memorial Scholarship,

contact Lauren Zachry Reynolds at 502-852-0516 to donate.

- The Fund for the Arts, [www.fundforthearts.com/giving-to-the-fund/](http://www.fundforthearts.com/giving-to-the-fund/), or 502-582-0100.

- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105, 901-495-3300.

# Tribute Wall

RA

“ I miss coming into class early and hearing him playing the piano. Always my favorite teacher. He was such a amazing musical influence and person.

Rachael - November 28, 2024 at 11:39 AM

DF

“ Mr. Higgins literally ran across my mind so I decided to google him and found his obituary. I was a student of his from 4th grade on up into high school. Mr. Higgins was a remarkable teacher/friend. He pushed his students to be the best at all times. Mr. Higgins was very inspirational to me which pushed me to become better and to strive for nothing but the best. I'm truly sorry for his family loss. He was such a great person and teacher.

Demetria Firman - June 13, 2018 at 06:34 PM

TS

“ I was a student from 1991 thru 1996 and mr higgins was a great inspiration and I had the great privilage to know the man and the friend . So in closing I will always remember the music and thank you

Tanya Skaggs - June 13, 2018 at 06:34 PM

DN

“ I had been thinking about the orchestra teachers I had in middle and high school and I wanted to look up Mr. Higgins. I had no idea he had passed away. He was one of my favorite teachers and was blessed to have met him.

Dinah Hayden (maiden name) - June 13, 2018 at 06:34 PM

SR

“ *Mr. Higgins was truly a Fantastic Musician and but for him to this very day I truly ADORE jazz! I first heard him play his saxophone in the 70's. He was always a gentleman and always wore a kind smile on his face. May the Lord truly bless his family. I am prayerful that God will give you strength and provide you with many cherished memories for a very long time! R.I.P., Mr. Higgins thank you so much for enriching our lives and Louisville with your gifted talents!!!*

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**Sandra Robinson** - July 06, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *I learned of the passing of Bennett when I recently spoke with one of the former members of his jazz fusion group "Crisis" which had an extraordinary reputation in the Louisville area in the 70's. I first became acquainted with Bennett as an audience member in the late 60s. The first time I heard him play, I - as a lifelong jazz fan - couldn't believe my good luck to have discovered such a superb musician in my own hometown! Over the years, I got to know Bennett and his wonderful wife Linda on a personal level. Bennett was a world class musician and educator. I soon found out he was also an exceptional person with a great deal of humility and compassion for others. Our lives are better for having known him. I shall be forever grateful for his friendship and what I learned from him - about music, of course, but also about humanity & goodness. Thank You, Bennett*

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**Robert McPherson** - February 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ I'm so sorry for the tardiness of this note. I just today found out about Mr. Higgin's passing. He was such an inspiration to me in music and his calm demeanor was an inspiration to me in my life. He played songs for me at my wedding and now I can help his Scholarship Fund at UofL help many others like me understand music his way: from the heart. Many thanks to his family for allowing him to be a father figure to some bad kids from the hood. We all remember him, we all admired him, we all hope he plays with Gabriel when we are called home... That would be nice!

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**James W** - July 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Mr. Higgins was truly an inspiration to me and many others that he taught at Southern High School. He kept me going and striving to be better not only in my music but in my life. His legend lives on in all the lives he touched and inspired. SHS Class of '94

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**Dawn Potts** - March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ Mr Higgins you truly were an inspiration to a many of your students I was lucky enough to be one of them. It was an honor to meet and know such an individual such as you.

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**Alisha kasey** - October 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I have been a student of Bennett's since fifth grade. I am currently a senior in high school. Bennett was such an outstanding saxophone teacher, but more importantly, an outstanding individual. My family and I will miss him greatly. He and his loved ones will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Matthew Feltner** - September 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ *My deepest condolences to the Higgins family. For the countless number of musicians that Bennett touched, I'm one of them. Growing up in Louisville and also being a saxophone player, Bennett was the one we listened to. Thank God for the opportunity to have met him, played with him, and talked with him. He will truly be missed.*

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**Woodie Douglas** - August 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ *To the Higgins family A life that has made a difference in so many other lives will be well remembered. A soul that has lifted up other souls and encouraged the climb will be well honored.*

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**Leborah Goodwin** - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *Dear Family,*

*I am very sorry for your loss. Bennett was a wonderful person. I will keep you in prayer.*

*Sandra Tilford Demaree*

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**Sandra Tilford Demaree** - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ *I was fortunate to work with Bennett in the recording studio a few times. He was a fabulous musician that I greatly admired. He will be missed by the Louisville music community, and all who knew him. He was a true gentleman.*

*Randy Davidson*

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**Randy Davidson** - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ My heartfelt sympathy to the Higgins Family. My thoughts and prayers are certainly with you. He was a great musician who will be sorely missed.

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**Pat Strong Finley** - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ It's been a pleasure and honor to have been Bennett Higgin's student for the past eight years. Ever since I started playing the saxophone in 5th grade, Bennett has taught me everything I know and I owe everything I know from music to him. Bennett loved to play Jazz more than anything, and it was the last thing he taught me. I hope one day to be as passionate and masterful in Jazz as he was. Words cannot express how much I'll miss his guidance and company, Rest In Peace Mr. Higgins, thank you for everything.

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**Greg Agadzhanov** - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ As the days and weeks pass, and as you return to life's routine, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends.

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**A friendAug** - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Thank you Mr. Higgins for instilling in me a love your music. Every time I sit down to play your words ring in my ear." Vance! Listen to the drum beat and play with it". Rest. In paradise teacher.

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**A friendAug** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Mr. Higgins was a kind and loving soul. He will be greatly missed by all of us. Our most sincere thoughts and prayers are with his family. Our Tuesday afternoons will be a little empty without him and his smile. He has given us a great deal just by knowing him. Love, Jennifer, Rachel and Elizabeth Coyle (violin lesson)*

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**Jennifer Coyle** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Please accept my heartfelt sympathy on the passing of Bennett. May God comfort and give you all strength during this time. "To be absent from the body is to be one with the Lord". You can take solace in the fact that your love one is resting in God's arms, and playing heavenly music for His delight.*

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**Louis Jene Carter** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *So thankful to have know you Bennett and family. I met you through Uncle Norman who loved me and supported me unconditionally more than I knew! Thank you for the times we played and the example of being a fine husband, father and musician. RIP*

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**Keith McCutchen** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *a great saxophonist who ill be missed, thanks for all you gave us Mr. Higgins*

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**Jarrard Harris** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ *Adding my condolences to those posted already. To quote Albert Ayler, "music is the healing force of the universe."*

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**Martin Kasdan Jr** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ *Many prayers for the Higgins family! I grew up listening to Norman on drums, Bennett on sax and Jonathan on drums in the Higgins household back in the day. How sweet is was to get that kind of exposure as a young child..They were awesome along with their father Stanley. Bennett was a true lover of the arts and music who will be missed I am certain by many who knew him. I had not seen him in many years, but was aware of his illness and must say he fought the good fight with much spirit and courage.... Mr Bennett Higgins sir, rest peacefully.....Music is life, play on....*

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**Pamela White** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ *Let God's love surround you during this time of pain.*

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**Phillip Rowe** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ *BENNETT L. HIGGINS*

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**Pam Thompson** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *Your family will be in my prayers.Marsha Norris Driscoll*

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**A friendAug** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *God Bless you Linda and sons. For I have set in your seat The Lord will continue to Bless You.*

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**Sharon Thompson** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Linda: I am keeping you and your family in prayer. God Bless

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**Muriel Stone Nolen** - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Mr. Higgins, You were a phenomenal teacher that helped guide all of your students to becoming better musicians. It was truly an honor to learn from you and have performed by your side. May you rest in peace.

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**Derek Stotts** - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ I'll never forget enjoying Bennett's music both in public as well as with Frank in Bennett's basement. Such a joy! Bennett will be greatly missed.

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**Linda Austin** - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Bennett Higgins was a great compassionate influence in my life. I might not have made it through my first year of teaching without the comradery of the related arts teachers during our lunch/planning. Bennett would have us laughing with the stories from his childhood. But his real gift was in the music he played and taught to thousands. Luckily for us, he was playing well until the end. I was a sorry jazz student but he never gave up on me and my lessons with him these last years are treasured memories. His words of wisdom, humor and friendship will stay with me until I die. Go well friend.

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**Martha Bartlett** - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ I am so sorry to here of your departure Mr Higgins you have been such an inspiration to me I will never forget you and all you have given me, may God give your family strength and comfort love you Mr Higgins

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**Leslie Pennington** - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Bennett was introduced to me by my brother, Kevin ,who was a long time friend and fellow musician with Bennett. Not only was he an exceptional musician but a kind-hearted person whose courage in life is to be admired. What a great man who did great things! .May his family and close friends find some peace and love in his memory. He will be sadly missed. We pray for you his family. Bridget and Greg Smith

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**A friendAug** - August 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. If we can assist you with anything please feel free to call on us.

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**Ron** - August 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AI

“ Rest in Peace, Brother!

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**AbdurRahman IbnDuriyah** - August 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GT

“ Rest in Peace, Brother

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**Garrett Tilford** - August 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Linda I am truly sorry for your loss. Bennett's quite demeanor and smile will greatly be missed. My family will always be grateful for him playing for our parents anniversary. It's amazing when you think of how Bennett is playing before God on the streets paved of gold. God bless you and your family.

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**Jacqueline Reed** - August 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I will dearly Miss you Mr higgins . You taught me so much not only as a musician but as a young Man. You told me so many stories about your life and things i will deal with in life and i looked to you like a father figure. It hurts your not with us anymore but the good lord had plans for you and now we must accept that and enjoy the memories we had with you. Im still in shock bye bye ,Maestro Higgings and thank you

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**Corey Shauntee** - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Please accept my sympathy to Bennett's family. Bennett was a truly exceptional person who was so kind and inspiring to everyone. He will truly be missed.

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**Lorna Pierce** - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Linda.... Jon..... Jonathan.... and to everyone in the Higgins Family..... Dianne, Josh and I were all saddened to learn this week that Bennett passed away. Each of us loved Bennett..... Josh maybe most of all.... And we will never, ever, ever forget him, or his spirit, or his generosity of spirit or his friendship. He has been a part of our lives and will continue to be a part of our lives in the wonderful memories we hold dear and cherish. Bennett knew that he was in inspiration to me.....even though he was constantly horrified that I would even consider opening a jazz club..... (When we closed the Jazz Factory, he just said....."Now I told you that was going to happen...") And as for Josh..... Bennett was like a second father for a good many years..... And I couldn't be prouder about that.

*My greatest sorrow is that I can't be with you this week in Louisville..... But I hope to see you sometime in the future when I'm back in town.*

*Till then, love to you all..... We're all thinking of you.... and of all the wonderful memories we have of our dear friend Bennett....*

*with all my heart..... Ken Shapero*

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**Ken Shapero** - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ Mr. Higgins, I hope you're flying high in the sky with your saxophone. You were the greatest teacher I ever had and I thank you for everything you ever taught me. You are greatly missed and very much loved. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Bennett Higgins.

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**Nicki Lennon** - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I am truly saddened to hear about your loss. Mr. Higgins was my Saxophone instructor all throughout middle and high school and boy could he PLAY! My thoughts and prayers will be with you all. God bless.

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**Jordan Dorsey** - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Mr Higgins inspired the music in many kids over his years. I absolutely loved coming into his class for 7 years and learning from him he gave me confidence in my playing and encouraged me to keep playing no matter what. To this day I have my Viola next to my bed. He will be greatly missed. Linda and family I am so sorry for your loss. He was an amazing man who can never be replaced. He always has been and always will be in our hearts.

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**Sherry Carlson** - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM