



Dr. Kim Lawrence Renas

July 13, 1952 - March 31, 2019

Kim L. Renas, age 66, of Livonia; went home to be with his Savior on March 31, 2019. Beloved husband of 42 years to Jane; dear father of Linden Lea (Chris) Peters, Kirsten Renas; proud Opa of Kristian and Kieran; cherished son of Eleanore and the late Herb; brother of Kevin (Kathy) Renas, Kip (Joanne Murray) Renas; brother-in-law of Sioux (the late Zeke) Zilantis, Russell Barnes along with many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, colleagues, and an extensive family of students.

Kim was born in Highland Park, MI on July 13, 1952, to loving parents Herb and Eleanore Renas. Kim was the oldest of three, and he loved laughing and playing baseball with his younger brothers, Kevin and Kip. As they got older, the boys helped Herb with the family landscaping business.

Kim's love of music was instilled in him by his high school choir director, Lowell Everson, at Livonia Stevenson High School. In 1970, Kim served as Choir President for his senior year. He would go on to study music at Schoolcraft Community College and Eastern Michigan University, where he earned both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Music. When he was in undergraduate studies, Kim formed a small vocal ensemble with his brothers and friends, that ministered at his home church and others in the area. During his graduate studies, he served as the business manager of the EMU Madrigal Singers, coordinating their tour of England and Ireland in 1976. He would later return there with his own choirs.

During his time at EMU, he met Jane Barnes, a fellow voice performance

student in the Masters Program. During their courtship, Kim led Jane to a relationship with Jesus, and upon graduating they became engaged. After beginning their teaching careers at Liberty University (then Liberty Baptist College), Kim and Jane married on November 27, 1976. At EMU and throughout their marriage, Kim and Jane often sang together in church, concerts, Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, and operas.

While at LU, Kim served as the choir director, taught private voice, and founded the select Chamber Choir. This choir sang at Thomas Road Baptist Church for their student services, and performed at official college functions. During these early days of the college, Kim and Jane were instrumental in shaping the curriculum for voice majors at Liberty. Kim shared his love of England with his students, taking his choirs on mission tours to the British Isles in 1980, 1982, 1985, and 1987. Kim and Jane formed close relationships with many of their students, which last to this day.

In the summer of 1982, he and Jane studied opera performance at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. In the spring of 1983, their first daughter, Linden Lea, was born. In the fall of 1988, Kim and his family moved to Mansfield, PA, where he taught voice and conducted choirs at Mansfield University. In 1989, their second daughter, Kirsten, was born.

In 1990, Kim completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts through the University of Maryland, which he had begun in 1978. During the 1990's, Kim served in the music ministry at First Baptist Church of Wayne, Ward Church, Praise Baptist Church, and Trinity Presbyterian Church, where he and Jane have been members for the past ten years. He also took one of his church choirs on a performance tour of the British Isles in 1996.

Kim taught at various public schools in the Detroit area, eventually coming to Wayne-Westland Community Schools in 2004, where Jane had been teaching music since 1992. He was active in the Michigan choral and vocal music community, as an adjudicator and choral performance coach. Kim returned to Schoolcraft Community College, where he taught Music Appreciation and other music courses. He also taught voice lessons at Wayne State University,

choir and voice at Madonna University, and voice at William Tyndale College. By the time he retired in 2011, Kim had taught music to students of all ages, from Kindergarten through postgraduate level. Though he had a particular passion for working with college students and conducting choral music, he cared for all his students and inspired a love of music in their hearts. During his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his grandsons, teaching at Schoolcraft, and ministering in church.

In 2016 he suffered a debilitating stroke, the effects of which he fought for three years. On Sunday, March 31, 2019, he finished the fight and went home to be with his Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Some say he left before 9:00 AM so he could warm up the angel choir in Heaven. Kim often expressed that he felt his purpose was to train musicians in excellence to minister for the Lord, and everyone who knew him would agree he accomplished just that.

The visitation will be Sunday, April 7th from 2 P.M. until 8 P.M. with a 6:30 P.M. Remembrance Service at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Rd., W. (between Sheldon & Beck).

The Funeral Service will be Monday, April 8th at 11 A.M. at Trinity Church, 10101 Ann Arbor Rd. W., Plymouth, MI 48170. The family will gather at the church to greet friends on Monday beginning at 10 A.M. until the funeral service.

Interment will take place at Parkview Memorial Park Cemetery, Livonia.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Livonia Fire and Rescue, EMS Donation Fund, 14910 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home and church.

To leave a tribute of condolences, please click on the 'Share a Memory' tab on

this web page.

Cemetery Details

Parkview Memorial Cemetery

34205 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

Remembrance Service

APR 7. 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

In state

APR 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Church
10101 W. Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Funeral Service

APR 8. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Trinity Church
10101 W. Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Kim Lawrence Renas*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I was a student in the music department for a short time at LU in the early 80s. Dr. Renas was my faculty advisor, and I saw him perform Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly in Roanoke. I always had an admiration for the talent of he and his wife. I am so sorry to hear this news, and wish Mrs. Renas and his family much peace. Howard Dickey*

Howard Dickey - March 24, 2020 at 10:54 AM



“ *I was a student at LU from 1982-1987, and was proud to be in Dr. Renas' voice studio and Chamber Choir. He made me the musician I am today, and I am proud to say I am one of his students. I will always remember not only the knowledge and skill he taught me, but the rich experiences that we shared. I look forward to seeing you again, in Heaven, Dr. Renas!*

Rev Kevin E Grant - April 08, 2019 at 08:50 AM

DM

“ I came to LBC in the Fall of 1976 and was able to be in Dr. Renas Concert Choir and take a semester of Voice Lessons from him. I loved singing as a young person and growing up in my Father's house, his unwritten rule was that there was to be only two types of music in his house, Country & Western! Well, when Dr. Renas first heard me sing he remarked on my ability to sing through my nose, like my favorite artist, Hank Williams Sr. After those lessons in which he attempted to instruct me in proper technique, I probably still sounded like Hank, but with a lot more refinement as I sang the first song he introduced me to, Ich leibe dich! God bless you, Mrs. Renas and family. Doug Maguire, Lebanon, PA.

Douglas Maguire - April 08, 2019 at 08:05 AM

EL

I knew Kim and Jane when they were members of Ward Presbyterian Church in NORTHVILLE , MI. Kim was directing both the church choir and orchestra. My heartfelt prayers go out to Jane and the whole family. I have no doubt that Kim is involved in the heavenly choirs and orchestral glories at this time!

Evie Longmire (flautist and vocalist)

Evelyn "Evie" Longmire - April 07, 2022 at 03:01 PM

AJ

“ Dr. Renas was my first voice teacher. He contributed greatly to my development as a professional singer. He was certainly gifted as a musician and as a voice teacher. My heartfelt condolences to his family.

- Art Joslin

Art Joslin - April 07, 2019 at 07:59 PM

MD

“ It was a pleasure to teach with Kim in Wayne-Westland. He and I worked well together and I had great respect for his passion for music and for expecting excellence. He was also a great listener and provided some guidance in my first few years of teaching. He will be missed but not forgotten!

Matthew Diroff - April 07, 2019 at 05:22 PM

CB

“ So Sorry for your loss. We have sweet memories of Dr. Kim and Jane at First Baptist Church of Wayne. One of my favorite memories is when we went to hear them both sing Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion." Beautiful! <3

Cindy Breederland - April 07, 2019 at 02:34 PM

GB

“ I was privileged to know and study vocal performance under Dr. Renas at Liberty University. Coming to LU with a love for music and as an inexperienced vocal student, he taught me all that I know today and I am grateful for his investment in my life during those years. May God give you His peace and comfort during this time as you reflect on the wonderful memories of Dr. Renas - he will be missed and always greatly admired and respected. Sending our love and prayers to Jane and the family
~Greg & Marsha Boone

Greg & Marsha Boone - April 07, 2019 at 11:34 AM

MS

“ I am privileged to be a professional vocalist and musical theatre performer thanks to Kim’s expert training. In fact, the ONLY reason my wife Sandy (one of Jane’s students) and I are unable to attend Kim’s services today and tomorrow is my commitment to play the Narrator/Mysterious Man in a production of Sondheim’s Into the Woods for which I have no understudy, but I will be dedicating these performances to Kim’s memory and Jane’s honor. May the Comforter be with us all as we mourn Kim’s passing and look forward to a sweet and tuneful reunion in our Savior’s Presence in heaven! Mike & Sandy Salsbury

Mike Salsbury - April 07, 2019 at 10:19 AM

SR

“ Some of my best memories growing up were getting together with the 'Renas clan' up in Gladwin. Kim, Kevin, and Kip along with all the rest of us had great times playing in Granddads barn, at the old swimming hole, and shooting our BB guns (we never did put out an eye that I can remember). Great times for us city kids. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with your family. May God comfort and be with you, Steve and Banjong Renas

Stephen Renas - April 06, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Kim Lawrence Renas.



April 05, 2019 at 01:06 AM

YC

“ Your SAI Sisters in the Detroit Alumnae Chapter purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Dr. Kim Lawrence Renas.



Your SAI Sisters in the Detroit Alumnae Chapter - April 04, 2019 at 07:56 PM

KJ

“ Kevin & Kathy, Kip & Joanne purchased the Bright and Beautiful Spray for the family of Dr. Kim Lawrence Renas.



Kevin & Kathy, Kip & Joanne - April 04, 2019 at 12:44 PM



“ To my good friend Kim. Although we were not real good friends at Stevenson High in Livonia, our hook-up later was really cool! I wish we could've been closer during those "choir days" with Mr. Lowell Everson, but God still brought us together here in our adulthood. Singing with Mr. Everson and the guys at Rosedale Presbyterian was SO memorable for me..and thanks for inviting me there! God bless you very much, dear Kim. I do hope I see you and Mr. Everson in that big choir in Heaven...Love John...my deepest condolences to Jane and your daughters.

John Savale - April 04, 2019 at 09:55 AM

PR

“ MY thoughts and prayers are with your family and have only good memories of working with Kim at Oakland University. Phyllis Relyea

Phyllis Relyea - April 04, 2019 at 09:32 AM

DP

“ We have known the Renas family going back to my grandparents and Kim's grandparents. We grew up together as our parents remained friends. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time. Kim will be sorely missed but Heaven is sweeter with his presence and his voice joining that great choir of angels.

Ron and Diane Pennington

Diane Pennington - April 03, 2019 at 09:04 PM

DD

I grew up with Kim as our parents grew up together. I went to our youth group Senior Banquet with Kim as good friends. Many fond memories of Kim and his family. So sorry for your (our) loss. BUT what a HOPE we have in Christ. Practice up Kim, we'll all be coming to sing with you soon.

Lee and Darlene Decker

Darlene Decker - April 04, 2019 at 09:00 AM

TF

“ The Orthner families purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dr. Kim Lawrence Renas.



The Orthner families - April 03, 2019 at 05:25 PM

MO

“ Mom purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Dr. Kim Lawrence Renas.



Mom - April 03, 2019 at 02:30 PM