



Frederick A. "Fred" Hitchcock

May 21, 1944 - April 26, 2014

Frederick A. "Fred" Hitchcock, 69, of Yonkers, NY passed away Saturday, April 26, 2014 at St. Luke's Hospital in New York, NY. Fred was born in Towanda, PA on May 21, 1944 the son of Welles and Hope VanBarriger Hitchcock. He was a graduate of Towanda High School class of 1962 and later in that same year enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served until 1965. In early years, Fred was employed by the Ann Page Plant in Horseheads, NY and by Masonite Corporation in Wysox, PA. He later served as an emergency medical technician in Newark, NJ for several years. As a youth, Fred developed a keen interest in working on and restoring old pianos at his family's homestead in Rummerfield, PA. In years to follow, through extensive self-education, dedicated long working hours and being blessed with "perfect pitch", he began what was to become a successful career as a piano technician in Yonkers, NY. Fred operated his business, A Piano Shop, in Yonkers, NY for many years and during this time acquired a faithful following of prestigious clientele from all walks of life including Ray Charles, the Three Tenors and Liberace for whom Fred constructed a custom designed piano. Fred was honored to provide exclusive technical service to the Julliard School of Music, Lincoln Center and the New York City Ballet and was working on a piano at the New York City Ballet when he collapsed. He was considered as one of the top three piano technicians in the world. Fred was held in high esteem in his profession and as a friend to many. He will be dearly missed.

Fred is survived by his sisters, Barbara Rinebold and husband David of Athens, Lila Moughan and husband William of Sayre, Janice McCloskey of Lewisburg, PA as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. A private funeral service will be held at the convenience of the family. The Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home of Towanda, PA is assisting Fred's Family with arrangements.

Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting www.bowenfuneralhomes.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Frederick A. "Fred" Hitchcock

October 22, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ Frederick A. "Fred" Hitchcock

October 08, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ Frederick A. "Fred" Hitchcock

October 06, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ Frederick A. "Fred" Hitchcock

October 06, 2023 at 03:29 AM



“ Frederick A. "Fred" Hitchcock

October 05, 2023 at 02:02 PM

AE

“ I introduced myself to Fred after reading a quote from him in a NY Times article. We became friendly as he helped in my piano search and taught me how to listen to and assess pianos, guiding me away from mistakes and ultimately helping me to settle on one that I have to this day. Over the years, he showed incredible generosity of spirit and a teacher's instinct in educating me on the engineering of pianos, piano making lore, and techniques of tuning and maintenance, and finally serving as a resource and sounding board as I explored those more fully.

I am deeply indebted.

Abraham Ehrlich

NYC

Abraham Ehrlich - May 23, 2017 at 01:39 PM

MA

He was my piano teacher in merrick when i was a young boy.

Marc - April 13, 2019 at 01:25 PM

KM

“ *The Hitchcocks were our nearest neighbors where I grew up in Rummerfield, PA from 1951-1960.*

Fred had a wisdom and knowledge that was far beyond his years. Their farm was on top of the hill from ours, so we occasionally visited. We had a horse that didn't like to be ridden, and Fred took his turn at trying to "break" this horse. After being the recipient of a wild ride though the woods and mountainous fields hanging on for dear life, Mike (the horse) brought him right back to the clover field behind our house, from where he (Mike, the horse) refused to budge. A professional horse trainer was called in, also unable to control that horse! But Fred was always willing to help out and share his knowledge and experience!.

Another memory was when Fred showed me how to gather Sassafras roots to make Sassafras tea. He had a big sassafras tree in a nearby pasture, and we chipped off some roots, boiled it up and enjoyed it when my family came up for dinner with the Hitchcocks. He was also interested in science, and we had many fascinating discussions about the universe.

I lost contact when we moved out of state, but I know he will continue his success in the place where he now resides!

Karyl Magee - July 16, 2014 at 11:45 AM