



ROBERT M. PETTA

June 16, 1949 - March 22, 2018

Robert M. Petta, 68, of Fairmount, passed away Thursday at home after a three year battle with cancer. He was born in Syracuse to the late Michael and Dorothy (Stoyan) Petta in 1949. Robert received his A.A.S. from Onondaga Community College and his Bachelor of Music from The Manhattan School of Music. After graduating he became the Principal Percussionist of The Florida Symphony/Orlando Philharmonic, a position he held for thirty-seven years. He has performed with many major classical and pop artists. With The Orlando Philharmonic he made several recordings for Madacy Records. He was also a member of The Brevard Symphony and frequently performed with the orchestras of Naples, Jacksonville, Tampa and Sarasota. He was the Principal Percussionist for The Orlando Opera, Opera Tampa, The Palm Beach Opera, The Southern Ballet Theater and tours with the Ballet Companies of New York City, Houston, Hartford and Pittsburgh. He also performed on tour with The Royal Opera Orchestra of Covent Garden. In addition, Robert performed for many years in The Fife and Drum Corps at Walt Disney World and was on the faculty of The University of Central Florida.

In addition to performing and teaching, Mr. Petta has computer engraved new Percussion parts for many orchestral pieces including all of the Operas of Puccini. These revised parts are now being used by orchestras throughout North America.

In 2012 Robert moved back to Syracuse to pursue semi-retirement. Since returning, he has performed with The Binghamton Philharmonic, The Catskill

Symphony, The Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Symphoria of Syracuse and The Coachmen.

He is survived by his sister; Cynthia Petta, of Fairmount and many cousins and friends.

Family and friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, 2601 Milton Ave., Solvay. The Rite of Committal in Greenlawn Memorial Park will be private.

Please offer online memories and tributes at www.bagozzitwins.com.

Cemetery Details

GREENLAWN MEMORIAL PARK - PRIVATE INTERMENT

2932 Warners Rd.
Warners, NY 13164 (AF)

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAR 27. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bagozzi Twins Funeral Home, Inc.
2601 Milton Ave.
Solvay, NY 13209
(315) 468-2431
steve@bagozzitwinsfh.com
<https://www.bagozzitwins.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ ROBERT M. PETTA

January 21, 2023 at 02:11 PM



“ So sorry to learn that Robert has passed. He was a great man with an even larger presence. While my wife and I were able to see him perform a couple of times in Winter Park Florida, our friendship stemmed from his talents as a skilled pool player. His wit, smile and cool under pressure attitude made him someone liked by all. I have not played pool since about the time he left for NY, however the next time I do I will strive for a break and run in your honor Bob. The Schwartzman family.

jonathan schwartzman - May 27, 2018 at 02:34 PM



“ I was so sad to learn of Bob's passing. We were in the percussion sections at WG in the 60s. I went on to major in piano, then voice, but clearly Bob took his percussion talents to great heights. Quiet and unassuming in high school, I was delighted to read how much he excelled and prospered after high school. My condolences to the family. I expect he's making some noise in heaven (where nobody minds, I imagine). RIP, Bob.

Sincerely,

Diane Coloton (who also moved back to Fairmount after many years away)

Dr. Diane Coloton - April 03, 2018 at 09:25 PM

CN

“ I knew Bob as a colleague and friend for over forty years, and we played many a concert together in the Florida Symphony and Orlando Philharmonic. We shared lots of laughs and many great musical moments. He certainly was one of a kind. I'm saddened by his passing, but cherish the memories of our many performances on stage together and our sometimes comedic antics in rehearsal. So long Bob! - Chris Nolin

Chris Nolin - April 02, 2018 at 02:33 PM

SF

“ I'm so sorry to hear the loss of Bob. I studied with Bob at UCF in the mid-late 80s. He gave me so many opportunities in the FSO, Music Orlando, and the Orlando Philharmonic. I hope he is at peace and drumming up a storm in the big orchestra beyond. You defined many of us that work here in Central Florida as drummers and percussionists. You made a difference in many careers. Thanks Bob. 😊👍👍 Sam Forrest

Sam Forrest - April 01, 2018 at 02:40 PM

RA

“ So sorry for your loss. I was one of Bob's students, walking over to his house in Fairmount for lessons. He was a great teacher and accomplished much in his career. He will be greatly missed.
Ron Albin

Ron Albin - April 01, 2018 at 09:18 AM

FC

“ I have such fond musical memories of Bob. Playing gigs and rehearsals with “Aunt B’s Canned Music” in my garage on Jones St. almost 50 years ago. I was sorry to hear of his passing just as he began semi-retirement but I must say... that with all his accomplishments, living a musical life as full as his and all the friendships gained along the way, what a wonderful life lived and legacy to leave. My condolences to his family who I know had great pride and love for Bob. Frank Cutri

Frank Cutri - March 31, 2018 at 10:46 PM

AR

“ I am so very sad to hear of Bob's passing. My deepest sympathies to his sister and family. Bob was such a wonderful man and I loved his wonderful sense of humor. His incredible love for his family was clearly the most important thing in his life and his love and commitment to them was inspiring.
Andrea Rowlison, Orlando

andrea Rowlison - March 27, 2018 at 04:17 PM

CF

“ Cousin Patricia and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of ROBERT M. PETTA.



Cousin Patricia and Family - March 26, 2018 at 02:17 PM

PS

“ Cindy so sorry to hear about Bob he was a wonderful person and cousin, i think of you two often, i will miss him, love to you cousin Cindy

Paul Skapura - March 26, 2018 at 02:07 PM

PJ

“ We will never forget Bob's sense of humor and his great interest in our heritage. I will always keep the Petta heritage tree you put together. Your suffering is over RIP. Cousin Patricia and family.

Patricia Jonas - March 26, 2018 at 01:22 PM

JN

“ Bob will be sadly missed by The Musical Community throughout the United States and Abroad...the following is an email from Bob when he was diagnosed almost four years ago...Dear Fellow Coachmen,

I just want to thank you all for the kind words.

You know, after almost 40 years of a primarily symphonic career, I got this crazy idea that I wanted to play with a rock band again. I can honestly say that if it were any other bunch of guys I probably wouldn't have lasted more than a couple of months. I love you guys both personally and musically.

Bob



JOSEPH NERI - March 25, 2018 at 07:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Don Bullis - March 25, 2018 at 05:15 PM



The picture is from 1969 Aunt "B's" Canned Music.

Don Bullis - March 25, 2018 at 05:28 PM

DB

So sad to hear of Bobs passing. I have many fond memories of Bob from high school, "hanging at the mall", and playing music together. Bob was one of a kind. I know he was very happy to be back in Syracuse.

Don Bullis - March 25, 2018 at 05:49 PM

SM

Very sorry to hear of Bobs passing. He was a friend and fellow musician. My deepest condolences to Bob's family my he Rest In Peace..

Skip Miceli - March 25, 2018 at 05:52 PM

SH

I am heartbroken & devastated to hear of Bob's passing. He found me not quite a year ago, as I had been searching the family also. Even though we were never able to meet in person, we became close through our email conversations. Rest in peace cousin Bob, I will be forever grateful to you for sharing your memories with me.

Sue Hall - March 29, 2018 at 08:25 AM

LL

“ Bob was an early musical hero of mine when I was in High School. Already an in-demand drummer in Syracuse, he was destined for the Manhattan School and a great career. When he returned to Syracuse, he graced all of us in the Symphoria percussion section with his talent, grace, humility, and generosity. It was a pleasure to know him, finally get to work with him, and socialize with him as a member of that small fraternity of Syracuse's professional percussionists. He will be missed, but not forgotten, by the musical community. - Larry Luttinger

Larry Luttinger - March 25, 2018 at 11:42 AM

PN

“ Cindy I am very sorry for your loss of your brother. Thinking of you and praying for you. Pat Large Neer

Pat Large Neer - March 25, 2018 at 09:04 AM

EC

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Eric Cappotto - March 25, 2018 at 03:13 AM

EC

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Eric Cappotto - March 25, 2018 at 02:34 AM

JG

“ Cindy, I regret that I am unable to attend the calling hours for Bob as I am out-of-state. I'd like to share some of my memories of your brother. I used to joke with Bob that he was a legend; cool on the outside but a joker on the inside. I was introduced to Bob by his best friend, Bob Jennings, one day back in the 60s at Murphy's restaurant/store in Fairmount Fair. He was drinking his favorite beverage, cherry coke, at the time. Years later, I played guitar in a "garage band" with Bob called, the Detours. He introduced me to R&B, especially James Brown, one of his favorites. Bob loved to repeat the phrase from "It's a Man's World", which was, "Man made the electra light"! Bob suggested I "make it hurt" anytime I sang, so I'd sound like James. Don't think I ever mastered that! Bob's favorite golfer was Jack Nicklaus. Bob admired Jack so much, he purchased a matching golf set, including a 1-iron which was too difficult for any of us to hit, except Bob. On occasion, Bob would notify us of some alleged Jack Nicklaus rule we were about to break, such as using a putter from off the green. Bob would remind us, "Jack Nicklaus wouldn't do that"! Inevitably, we had to change clubs. Bob's deadpan humor made me laugh. Like the time he was riding in my car. The light turned green but because I didn't proceed immediately, Bob said, "It's not going to turn any greener"! He also informed me that BP gasoline was named after him. Everyone had stories about Bob. He will be sorely missed.
Jeff Gibbs

Jeffrey Gibbs - March 24, 2018 at 08:37 PM

KT

“ Karen Todeschini lit a candle in memory of
ROBERT M. PETTA



karen todeschini - March 24, 2018 at 06:13 PM

EM

“ To his beloved sister, Cynthia (who I was honored to meet a few times at concerts) and Bob's family, my sincerest condolences. I only really knew him in the years after he returned to Syracuse after his tenure with the Orlando Philharmonic. He performed with us a few times (Symphoria of Syracuse) with distinction, and he provided us, his fellow colleagues, with a lot of knowledge, (captivating) stories of his vast experiences, expert skill, and lively personality. So sorry I was not able to visit with him these last few years since he took ill. We all miss him.

Ernest Múzquiz - March 24, 2018 at 03:26 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of ROBERT M. PETTA.



March 24, 2018 at 09:08 AM

BJ

“ Cindy,
We hope that the treasured memories of Bob will keep you strong.
Many caring thoughts are with you at this time.
Bob and Kathy Jennings

Bob Jennings - March 23, 2018 at 07:57 PM

NB

Remembering Bob from many years ago..high school and a band called The Sentries. I saw him about a year ago when he was playing with the symphony. We chatted for awhile, joking and laughing about old times. I will remember this great guy, and think of him fondly for the rest of my life !

Nadine Brown - March 24, 2018 at 09:37 AM

KC

*Cindy, although our time with Robert was short, we both felt very close and honored to have known him. We pray he is now at peace and in a better place. may he rest. in peace. god bless.
Kermit and Janet carr.*

kermit and janet carr - March 24, 2018 at 12:07 PM

EC

*I am so very sorry to learn of Bob Petta's passing.
I always looked up to Bob as not only a wonderful musician, but a warm and caring person.
I knew him back in the day when he was playing in local club bands in the Syracuse area and we called him "Mr. Petta" because of his vast knowledge of drums and percussion..
I am very sorry that he is no longer with us, but I am also glad that he is not having to deal with what he has been going through the past few years..
I will remember him always..
with Love,
Rick Cappotto*

Eric Cappotto - March 25, 2018 at 02:18 AM

JB

*Bob is known far and wide as an exceptional musician admired and respected by fellow musicians as well as famous conductors such as Anton Coppola..He loved his family and cared for them. We will miss his friendship to our family even while he dealt with serious health issues. We will continue to pray for Cindy, remember Bob's kindnesses and honor the legacy of his musical skill.
Chuck and Janet Beutel*

janetq beutel - March 25, 2018 at 04:47 PM

MB

I will always remember the 24 hour solo Petta wanted to complete. I volunteered the venue, (my drums in the basement). He said he wanted to see how long he could play without stopping. He began playing about 7 a.m. but had to stop around 5 p.m. LOL. Unfortunately, my dad had come home from work and said he had to go home or he would have played for who knows how long. Those drums never sounded so good. Those were the days. So long old friend. Mick

mick baldino - March 26, 2018 at 12:15 PM