



John Stuart Burrows

August 3, 1941 - June 1, 2024

John Stuart Burrows

August 3, 1941 – June 1, 2024

John Burrows died peacefully in hospice care on June 1, 2024, surrounded by family, at age 82.

Born and raised in Newcastle-under-Lyme, England, John studied music from an early age and

was a choirboy at St. George's Church in Newcastle, where he was appointed assistant organist

at age 14. He was an organ scholar at Saint Edmund Hall of Oxford University from age 16,

ultimately graduating from the Royal Manchester (now Royal Northern) College of Music and

Manchester University. He then spent twelve seasons on the music staff at English National

Opera, where he served as the prompter for the legendary English-language production of

Wagner's Ring cycle and The Mastersingers under Sir Reginald Goodall.

John went on to become musical director of a range of musicals in London's West End,

including more than 250 performances of A Chorus Line in its original London run at the Theatre

Royal, Drury Lane, and two long-running Mermaid Theatre revues, Cowardy Custard and Cole.

During these years John also began his long and distinguished record of conducting the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan, including two London centennial productions: The Pirates of Penzance, relayed live by the BBC from the Royal Albert Hall; and Ruddigore, produced at the Barbican Centre.

John moved to the United States in 1980 with his young family to head the opera program at Southern Methodist University and soon founded the Lyric Opera of Dallas, acting as the company's artistic director and principal conductor for a decade. He also served as head of opera at Temple University, and later taught at the Academy of Vocal Arts, the University of the Arts, and vocal apprentice programs in the U.S. and Europe. While living in New York City and Washington, D.C., he maintained an active schedule conducting productions on a freelance basis and coaching singers of opera and musical theatre.

John and Melinda married in 1994. After settling in Riverton, N.J. they enjoyed renovating the Victorian house that became their full-time home with John's retirement in 2006. Before joining the Church of the Good Shepherd in 2022, they were parishioners at Christ Church in Woodbury, N.J., where John also served as interim organist and choirmaster.

Previous

affiliations included St. Paul's Parish, K Street in Washington D.C.; Church of the Resurrection and St. Thomas' Church in New York City; and St. Clement's Church in Philadelphia.

John was a delightful raconteur, an avid gardener, a superb cook, a connoisseur of British comedy, and a great listener with an infectious smile. He is survived by his wife, Melinda; his treasured daughter, Nan; his former wife and close friend, Rita; and his dear niece, Frances. His beloved son, Joel, died in 2012.

A Requiem Mass for the repose of John's soul will take place on Saturday, June 15, at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rosemont, 1116 W. Lancaster Avenue in Bryn Mawr. A reception will follow in the Rosemont Community Retreat House, adjacent to the church.

For those unable to attend in person, the Requiem will be streamed live online.

Livestream:

<https://boxcast.tv/view/solemn-requiem-mass-for-the-repose-of-the-soul-of-john-stuart-burrows-j37o2jf4hb2fcfuxyh3x>

Service Bulletin:

<https://storage.lifetributes.com/Tributes/7733469/pdf/funeral-program.pdf?cb=>

359a5234-86f3-4020-b6a1-597752da303a

In lieu of flowers, contributions are encouraged to the music program of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rosemont.

Donations:

<https://onrealm.org/ChurchTheGoodSh519/-/form/give/music>

Directions/Parking

<https://www.goodshepherdrosemont.com/visit>

Previous Events

Requiem Mass

JUN **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of The Good Shepherd
1116 W Lancaster Ave.
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Chadwick and McKinney Funeral Home - June 07, 2024 at 03:37 PM



“ *So many treasured, and wonderful memories of John, when both my mom, and I were very involved with The Lyric Opera of Dallas, and I was staff photographer for several years, and my mom was one of the co-founders of the company. I was so mesmerized by John's unique talent musically being able to make an opera production come out so alive, and most entertaining. Rest in peace, dear John forevermore.*
Julie Lundberg

Julie Lundberg - December 20, 2024 at 08:52 PM



“ *I worked with John at the Dallas Lyric Opera when I was only 20 yrs old. It was my first time working for a professional opera company (even though I had had a lot of professional acting and theatre jobs). He made me feel like an equal among the cast and always included me in social events too. It was such a lovely experience and I have fond memories of him.*
Katherine Bongfeldt

katherine bongfeldt - September 05, 2024 at 08:48 PM

GS

“ 1 file added to the album *With friends*



Gunnar Söderlund - June 15, 2024 at 09:24 AM

GS

John with Sylvie Söderlund. Photo by Melinda. Together John and Sylvie gave many concerts

Gunnar Söderlund - June 15, 2024 at 01:28 PM