



## Dwight Leroy Hackett

April 10, 1946 - March 17, 2023

Dwight Leroy Hackett, 76, of Murrysville, went on to meet his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Friday March 17, 2023 due to multiple health complications. He was a much loved musician, composer, arranger, pianist, teacher, and choir director. He grew up in McKeesport and resided in Murrysville. Dwight was a graduate of Duquesne University with a master's degree in composition and performance. He taught choral music at Norwin School District from 1969-1978 and at East Allegheny School district from 1990-2008 where he directed a few musicals. He was Minister of Music at Christian Fellowship Center/Living Waters Congregational Church from 1978-2020. He co-founded SyntheSound Studio a music recording studio instructing and producing there from 1978-1990. Dwight played French horn early in his career as an extra with the Pittsburgh Symphony and later as a freelance musician and also played with the Westmoreland Symphony which is where he met his wife Jan. He taught privately, after retiring from teaching, at the Music Room in Irwin from 2009-2016 and at the I Am Music Academy as co-owner with his wife from 2016-2023. He taught piano-jazz and french horn. Dwight loved his farm, motorcycles, and sports cars. He will be remembered by his creative and fun stories and personality. He was born April 10, 1946 in McKeesport, a son of the late Frank and Hilda (Sisler) Hackett. He is survived by his wife Janet, his daughter Joelene (Jason) Sturm, his grandchildren Levi "Ziggy" Sturm and London Sturm; his siblings Keith Hackett and Shelley (Preston) Futrell, sister-in-law Lois Esmark, and many nieces and nephews. There will be a

celebration of life April 1st at Keystone Christian Church, 5875 Washington Ave., Export, PA 15632. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. to Noon followed by musical performances, praise, worship, and personal comments from friends and family. Dwight asked Jesus into his heart early and rededicated his life in 1975. Please consider eternity with Jesus by asking him into your heart to be Lord of your life. The benefits are out of this world!! In lieu of flowers a contribution can be made to Keystone Christian Church who has been kind enough to provide space for Dwight's and Jan's music studio. The William Snyder Funeral Home, Irwin is in charge of arrangements. For online condolences please visit [www.snyderfuneralservices.com](http://www.snyderfuneralservices.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 1. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Keystone Christian Church  
5875 Washington Ave.  
Export, PA 15632

## musical performances, praise, worship, and personal comments from friends and family

APR 1. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Keystone Christian Church  
5875 Washington Ave.  
Export, PA 15632

# Tribute Wall

WB

“ *Mr. Hackett was a light and a joy. So thankful for teachers who really made a difference. It's been 52 years since we were his students and we all remember him so well! Thankful for the hope of heaven to be able to see him again.* ”

Wendy Brzezinski - October 14, 2023 at 07:39 PM



“ *Dwight Leroy Hackett* ”

October 07, 2023 at 10:37 AM

MC

“ *Mr. Hackett introduced me to music in 1973 at Sixth Street School. He once asked the question, “where does a composer get his sounds?” He stumped the youngsters, me included. But it was the question of the ages. He knew that it would stimulate thinking and awaken in young minds a life-long love of classical music. I have never forgotten, and will never forget, his challenge. The first of its kind in this you man’s mind, an eternal call to think deeply and grasp the hidden and unseen. I can attribute so much of the joy I’ve experienced in life to that simple, powerful challenge. Thank you so much, Mr. Hackett!* ”

mike collier - May 15, 2023 at 10:36 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dwight Leroy Hackett.* ”



April 05, 2023 at 06:25 AM

EL

“ Mr. Hackett was a perfect match for our very young son as a piano teacher. He was patient and kind to a little boy that had ADHD and Dyslexia that just happened to step into a drop in music class in Irwin. It seemed instinctual that he knew exactly what to do to keep him engaged during his classes with humor and kindness and gentle guidance. Unfortunately the struggle to use both hands simultaneously to play became too hard for my son to overcome, so he dropped piano classes. It had nothing to do with Mr. Hackett and I think he actually missed spending time with him more than actually playing the piano! I still feel bad that he didn't continue with the classes, because we found what I thought was a PERFECT fit for him to learn. Great teachers are a gift to their students and Mr. Hackett definitely had that gift. I am glad that my son was a recipient of that gift, even if it was for such a brief time. Blessings to his family as they mourn their loss and hopefully they can soon revel in the memories they share of this wonderful man. - The List Family.



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Erin List - April 03, 2023 at 07:55 AM

D(

“ David, Faith & Joel (Shepherds purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Dwight Leroy Hackett.

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David, Faith & Joel (Shepherds - March 30, 2023 at 02:54 PM

SH

“ One day at a sixth Street School, Mr Hackett happened to see me waiting for my mom to pick me up for a doctor’s appointment. He walked me out to her car and told her to take good care of me. It was a little jester, but reflecting the image of Christ is just an accumulation of little caring jesters. God bless you Mr Hackett.

Shawnea - March 30, 2023 at 06:05 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dwight Leroy Hackett.



March 28, 2023 at 01:36 PM

TE

“ In the 1970's Mr. Hackett music to my sisters and I at the sixth Street school. On May 16,1972, Mr. Hackett directed his students to perform a rock opera called the "Resurrection". The students referred to themselves as the tribal gathering. For the show, Mr. Hackett asked his students to portray their feelings about government ,school ,parents, clothes, language, hair, and the generation gap. My sister, Alisa wrote a song for the show and Mr. Hackett added the music. At the end of the program, the audience was cheering out loud with a standing ovation. It was phenomenal! In 2018, I asked Mr. Hackett if he remembered the song that my sister wrote and he without hesitation began to play it for me on the piano. Mr. Hackett told me that was his most gratifying year of his teaching career. Now, I stand with your tribal gathering and parents giving you a standing ovation. Thank you for enriching the lives of many generations. Terri Wiles Elder

Terri Elder - March 27, 2023 at 10:35 AM

JH

*Thank you Terri, he often talked about that opera! He was very creative. 🎵💖*

**Janet Hackett** - March 28, 2023 at 08:57 AM

SH

*It was an amazing performance, orchestrated by an amazing teacher. Shawnea Wiles Tallman*

**Shawnea** - March 29, 2023 at 06:15 PM

RB

“*Mr Hackett was my music teacher at Sixth Street School. I already loved music but he made it come alive to me like no one else had. That year we wrote the rock opera "Resurrection" and got to perform our original work. It was a massive undertaking and we little 7th graders put our heart and soul into because Dwight was so excited about it! A year or 2 later he started a band with mostly junior high kids and we got to go and do performances at lots of different places. He was always so excited about making music that it was infectious. I ended up going to Duquesne University and getting my degree in music education mainly because of the influence of this man. Rest in peace, Mr. Hackett.*

**Rebecca Poland Ball** - March 22, 2023 at 01:05 PM

AB

*I echo your sentiments about Mr. Hackett, Rebecca. He was the most creative, inspirational and energetic music teacher I ever had. He had us writing music and lyrics to our seventh grade created rock opera and experimenting with creating sound collages. He truly added a new dimension of music to me. His upbeat personality and even the way he had a bounce in his step were his trademark. His encouragement helped make those awkward preteen years fun. He was a difference maker for sure!*

**Annette Kremer Bohinski** - March 22, 2023 at 01:43 PM

JH

*Amen! He loved teaching! 🎵 And he remembered it all. 😊*

**Janet Hackett** - March 28, 2023 at 08:59 AM

DF

“ *Dana Foster lit a candle in memory of Dwight Leroy Hackett*



**Dana Foster** - March 21, 2023 at 03:47 PM

JH

*Thank you 💕*

**Janet Hackett** - March 28, 2023 at 09:00 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dwight Leroy Hackett.*



March 21, 2023 at 01:21 PM

LZ

“ *Larry and John Zajdel purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dwight Leroy Hackett.*



**Larry and John Zajdel** - March 20, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dwight Leroy Hackett.*



March 20, 2023 at 01:36 PM



“ *Lois, Eric, Karla, and Aaron purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Dwight LeRoy Hackett.*

**Lois, Eric, Karla, and Aaron** - March 19, 2023 at 09:23 PM



“ *[Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Dwight LeRoy Hackett.*

March 19, 2023 at 06:01 PM



“ *Dwight was my French horn teacher in the late 60's in the old Butz Music store. I enjoyed my lessons and time with Dwight and Carl lezzi. I went on to IUP and then to teach music in Greater Latrobe for 35 years. Thank you Dwight.*

**Ellen Piper** - March 19, 2023 at 02:06 PM



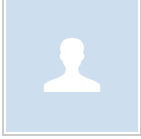
*You had the best with Dwight and Carl. 🎵*

**Janet Hackett** - March 21, 2023 at 10:34 AM

EP

*Absolutely!*

Ellen Piper - March 22, 2023 at 07:25 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dwight Leroy Hackett.*



March 19, 2023 at 01:27 PM

CM

“ *Peace to you my friend. Thanks for being a precious teacher. Thank you and Jan for your kindness. We thank you for allowing my children to fish at your home. Gods love to you.*

Chris Mandella - March 19, 2023 at 11:03 AM

MH

“ *Rest in peace, Dwight. We will all miss your fun loving personality. God bless you and peace to Jan and Jolene & her family.*

Matt Herbster - March 18, 2023 at 09:23 PM