



Barbara Ann Dodson

March 1, 1936 - April 9, 2016

Barbara Ann Dodson, of Hot Springs, died Saturday, April 9, 2016. She was born March 1, 1936, in Hot Springs, and was raised by her grandparents, John and Myrtle Hilliard. She was a gifted musician, composer, and teacher.

She graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1954, and later from the Sherwood Conservatory of Music, Chicago, Illinois. She was a member of the Musician's Union, American College of Musicians, Chair of the Hot Springs chapter of the National Guild of Piano Teachers, and Past President of the Hot Springs Music Club.

She performed many styles of music on piano and organ, and taught students privately in her home for 65 years. She served as a judge of the National Guild of Piano Teachers, touring the nation to evaluate both students and teachers. Her compositions are published by KJOS of San Francisco. She also loved studying and teaching the Bible, reading and writing mystery stories, traveling, working crosswords, playing computer solitaire, and her many students.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Dorris Hilliard, and grandparents John and Myrtle Hilliard. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Charles M. Dodson, Sr. of Hot Springs, and sons Chuck Dodson of Hot Springs, and Kelly Dodson of Austin, Texas, and by Frosty, her miniature Schnauzer.

Pallbearers are David Miller, Jeremy Whalen, Kelly Braxton, Kevin Rogers, Theron Sunderland, and Zachary Smith. Honorary pallbearers include Dr. Randy Hill, Dr. Srinivas Vengala, the 911 EMTs, and members of the Hot Springs Music Club.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to all who have been so kind in their messages, gifts, actions, and prayers.

Visitation for Mrs. Dodson will be held on Wednesday, April 13th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Hot Springs Funeral Home, and her funeral service will be Thursday, April 14th at 2:00 pm, also at Hot Springs Funeral Home, with Brother Ben Wiles officiating. Burial will immediately follow at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Hot Springs.

Tribute Wall

LM

“ 6/27/19 Barbara and I shared many happy times together! Her Grand Mother made us Sheena of the Jungle costumes. I lived on School Street too. Later in life we sang in church together with Barbara McAfee Williams. I enjoyed seeing her at the reunions for HSHS. Was she ill for any length of time or did she die quickly? I am so sorry for your loss. Louise Shuffield Mixon 865-414-8574

Louise Shuffield Mixon - June 27, 2019 at 02:26 PM

NP

“ Mrs. Dodson's famous quote to her piano students she begun each class with.



Nathan Parker - May 21, 2016 at 12:18 AM

“ I remember meeting Mrs. Dodson for the first time as my piano teacher. After enduring a few "younger" piano teachers, my mother told Mrs. Dodson that I was looking for someone "older" to be my next piano teacher, in which she responded "I'm old enough to be his grandmother, will that work?" We decided to take a couple-month trial to see how well we both would get along as piano teacher and student as not only she was not for the "casual student", I was not one for the "casual teacher" either.

Eleven years later, this was the longest "couple month trial" I had ever been on! It was eleven years I would never forget. Mrs. Dodson not only taught me well in learning to play the piano, but she was as a grandmother to me and a dear friend our family loved and cherished. Every week we'd come down the stairs into her studio, before asking me "What do you want to play today?", she started off with her other famous line "Give me your notebook!". Those words still ring through my memory as if it were yesterday.

Mrs. Dodson knew my love for the traditional hymns of the faith and taught me how to keep all of the blessed classics alive from "I'll Fly Away" to "Victory in Jesus", in which Mrs. Dodson would sing along to them as I played them and other blessed hymns each week. We endured ten auditions, memorizing one hundred pieces, numerous recitals and duets, dealing with when I broke my leg but still managing to complete my audition that year, dealing with my consistent issue of trying to "play by ear" instead of memorize the music, dealing with my consistent issue of breaking off onto my own timing instead of conforming to the printed music, finally going onto earning my Paderewski medal together. It was an eleven years I will always cherish.

Mrs. Dodson was not only one of the finest piano teachers I had the privilege of learning under, but she was a dear Christian friend who loved the Lord with all her heart and shared her love of Christ and the Word of God with others. She always encouraged me in the ministry and kept me strong in the Lord, and we had wonderful

conversations about the Lord and the Word of God together, and she was a blessing to anyone who came in contact with her. She had much strength in the Lord and in her relationship with Him.

Even when we relocated to North Georgia for a few years, we remained in contact with the Dodsons (both Mr. and Mrs. Dodson and Will then later Frosty), as we could never forget them no matter how far away we were from them as they were always a special part of our lives. We are thankful to be back in Arkansas, as well as thankful for the chance to see Mrs. Dodson after returning so we could see her before she passed away.

Mrs. Dodson will be deeply missed by all of us, as the community has lost a wonderful piano teacher, mentor, "second grandmother" to many of her students, and a dear Christian person. Heaven has gained a new choir director, and I look forward to that "Glad Reunion Day" when we will experience her musical gifts again as we enter the throne room of Heaven worshipping the Lord at the feet of Jesus.

Nathan Parker - May 21, 2016 at 12:03 AM

JL

“*Mrs. Dodson was an extremely important part of the lives of our family. She was the piano instructor to both of our boys and a vital part of their education. Her dedication to her students was unmatched. One thing that made an impression on me was a phrase in her teacher-parent contract which read, "Piano instruction at the Barbara Dodson Piano Studio is NOT for the casual student." She was greatly appreciated, respected, and loved.*

We will miss you, Mrs. Dodson.

Jerry, Angela, Benjamin, and Ethan Lewis

Jerry Lewis - April 14, 2016 at 11:35 AM

MM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with The Dodson family. I was sadden to hear the news. I'm forever grateful for the time and love Mrs. Dodson put into my life and musical journey. I have so many great memories with Mrs. Dodson. I still remember the day I called her (8 yrs old) telling her how music was going to be my career path. Thank you for sharing the gift of music and I'm so honored to carry the legacy you left behind here on earth to my students. I look forward to the day we meet again and get to play a duet :) Heaven truly gained an angel. Prayers and hugs to you all. She will be missed by many. (What a beautiful photo too!) Much love, Marcilee (Wilkins) Morgan



Marcilee Morgan - April 14, 2016 at 10:49 AM

PB

“ When my dad was pastoring a Nazarene church in Hot Springs, I was another piano student, about 9 or 10 years old. Got some of the basic music reading that helped me in my career as a guitar player. I remember Barbara as patient and knowledgable. I barely recognized her pop and jazz influence at the time, I just knew it was a bit different than my mom and dad's classical and church hymn styles. If memory serves, her husband Charles was building or repairing an electronic organ for her to use. What a great environment for their son Chuck to absorb on his way to his work in music and film. I am grateful for the brief times I have spent with her and the family and I know she is loved and missed by many people. God's comfort to all. Paul Brannon

Paul Brannon - April 13, 2016 at 06:17 PM

AN

“I have been playing piano since I was in 1st grade, and by far Mrs. Dodson has been the best teacher I've had. She knew my weaknesses and my strengths in music and she always knew how to bring them to light. Becoming her student was the best thing that ever happened to me when I moved to Hot Springs. I'm still in shock that she's gone. I regret that I didn't get to spend more time and learn more things from her. I wish I got to say goodbye!!! The Music world has lost a Legend forever...”



Aishani Singh Vengala <3

Anu - April 13, 2016 at 05:03 PM

SC

“I'm so sorry for your loss. We are praying for you all - that you feel supported, loved, comforted, and strengthened. That you feel joy as you remember your mom and peace in those memories. Hugs.
Sallie Culbreth

Sallie Culbreth - April 13, 2016 at 12:55 PM

DA

“Ms Dodson was my piano teacher. I will never forget the day my dad (James Wilson) drove me to her house. He told her that he wanted me to learn to chord so I could play the hymns in church. So that's exactly what she taught me to do. My first song in church was Sweet Hour of Prayer. I shall always remember her with much love. Condolences to Chuck and rest of the family. Know she is playing Heaven's piano now. And my dad is singing bass.

diann (wilson) Arington - April 13, 2016 at 11:02 AM

HG

“ *With Deepest Sympathy
Gil Poe and Family*

Hot Springs Florist and Gifts - April 13, 2016 at 08:40 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Barbara Ann Dodson.*



April 13, 2016 at 08:34 AM

KG

“ *While I did not know Mrs. Dodson personally, I have enjoyed using
her music for my piano students. Thankful for the musicians
composing for the enjoyment and learning of others.*

Kelli Gilbreath - April 13, 2016 at 08:30 AM

DE

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Barbara's passing. She leaves such a
legacy in her students that she has taught and Chuck and his
music. Prayers for the family.*

Denise Edds - April 13, 2016 at 07:57 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for
the family of Barbara Ann Dodson.*



April 13, 2016 at 07:41 AM

AF

“ I was only 12 when I met Barbara at our church when she came to do training on our new Hammond organ. A few years later I met her son (my brother) when I changed schools.

To know Barbara, Chuck Sr and Chuck has enriched my life and music career.

Barbara showed a young man how drawbars create magic on a Hammond organ. To this day, I have played on hundreds of recording sessions using the fundamental knowledge as I laid down B3 trax for artists including Willie Nelson, Ray Price, TD Jakes, etc.

andrew frye - April 13, 2016 at 07:05 AM

SL

“ R I P God be with you and your family

stan lafever - April 13, 2016 at 05:29 AM

KK

“ I took piano lessons from Barbara!! She always knew when I was playing the notes by memory rather than reading them! That always amazed me

Sorry for the family's loss

Prayers

Kim Nalls Kellar - April 12, 2016 at 10:36 PM

PB

“ *My mother told me that I could quit anything that I tried as a child if it didn't feel right, with the exception of my piano lessons. Mrs. Dodson taught me not only to be a pianist, but also a musician. She even gave me a chance to teach at a very young age, which made me proud and flattered that someone as gifted and as wonderful as she, would see that ability in me. I loved her dearly. She was noble, intelligent, and one of the neatest personalities on the planet. My only regret is not visiting her more often after I graduated. I know I am not alone in the grief that I feel. The world has lost a special light, and has been blessed to have her influence. May she live on in those she has touched.*



Penny Blocker - April 12, 2016 at 10:34 PM

JF

“ *JUDI PARKER LUCERO AND FAMILY purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Barbara Ann Dodson.*



JUDI PARKER LUCERO AND FAMILY - April 12, 2016 at 05:27 PM

NH

“ Charles, Chuck and Kelly,
One of my first memories of Barbara, was Nanny standing in the kitchen of the house on School street across from Jones school, she was talking about Barbara being on the roof of the house...sun tanning! I remember the day Charles and Barbara brought Chuck Jr home from the hospital just after he was born. Charles had a Black sporty looking Ford ...I saw them drive by on Rector going to Nanny and Pops house.

Our prayers and thoughts are with you.
Nathan, Mison, Jonathan and Maegan Hilliard
Williamsburg Va.

Nathan Hilliard - April 12, 2016 at 03:54 PM

MM

While we didn't have the opportunity to know Barbara, we have observed the talent she bestowed on son Chuck. Our sympathy to Chuck and all of the Dodson family.
Larry and Marlys Moodie-Dodson (not related)

Marlys Moodie - April 13, 2016 at 08:42 AM

DW

I am so sorry Chuck, praying for you and your family.

Diane Couch Winiecki - April 13, 2016 at 01:27 PM

BW

WE PRAY, THAT A RAINBOW OF LOVE, PEACE, STRENGTH & COMFORT, SURROUNDS YOU, AS YOU TRAVEL THROUGH, THIS LIFE ADJUSTMENT.
CONTINUED BLESSINGS, TO/FOR YOUR FAMILY.

BRENDA WILLIAMS-SMITH - April 17, 2016 at 02:45 AM