



Dr. Shirley McGaugh Zielinski

January 26, 1935 - February 18, 2018

Dr. Shirley McGaugh Zielinski, 83, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died Sunday, February 18, 2018 at Southeast Hospital in Cape Girardeau.

She was born January 26, 1935 in Old Hickory, Tennessee to Richard Lawrence and Sarah Harlan McGaugh.

She and Czeslaw Zielinski were married June 2, 1964 at Stuttgart, Germany.

She received her Bachelors of Music with performance certificate from Eastman School of Music, Fullbright scholarship for her study in Stuttgart and Cologne, Germany, Masters of Music from George Peabody College for Teachers and her Doctorate from Washington University in Saint Louis in 1981.

She taught voice at Southeast Missouri State University from 1972 to 1984. The remainder of her career she was a Professor at Belmont University School of Music in Nashville, Tennessee from 1984 to 2001. During her career she appeared in many operas and as a guest soloist with several symphony orchestras, such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the General Electric Chorus, and other equally famous groups and individuals. She also made many radio and TV appearances.

Survivors include her son, Lucian (Molly) Zielinski of Cape Girardeau; one sister, Bonnie (Bill) Stapp of Hagerstown, Maryland; one brother, Richard (Barbara) McGaugh of Sparta, Tennessee; three grandchildren, Candless (Corey) Campbell, Saylor (Clayton) Hardesty and Zachary Zielinski all of Cape Girardeau; three great-grandchildren, Asher Campbell, McKinley Campbell and Laney Hardesty all of Cape Girardeau; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends. She is also survived by her two Italian greyhounds, Sole and Paya and her parrot, Sweetheart.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and one sister, Dorothy Haverly.

Visitation will be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial service will follow at 2:00 pm with the Rev. Ron Watts officiating.

Memorial contributions may be given to Southeast Cancer Center or a music program of choice.

The family would like to send a special thanks to Dr. Jehan Murugasar, Dr. Andrew Moore, and all the nurses and staff of Southeast Hospital and Southeast Cancer Center for all of their loving care and support.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24.** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1313
info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Celebration of Life

FEB **24.** 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

AS

“ *Adrienne Stapp lit a candle in memory of Dr. Shirley McGaugh Zielinski*



Adrienne Stapp - April 07, 2019 at 06:38 PM

DA

“ *I knew Dr Zielinski while I was a student at Southeast Missouri State University. I was a science major that loved opera and she took me into her opera workshop with no hesitation. When working with her, with encouragement, coaching, and her sense of humor, the rest of the world went away because you were in THIS moment and enjoying every bit of it. She touched many lives and I am fortunate to be one of them.*

David Ashburner - October 03, 2018 at 02:43 AM

AR

“ *I so enjoyed being around Shirley at Belmont University where we were faculty. Such a talented, kind, and energetic musician and colleague. I do believe she knew my parents (both deceased) back when she was a young woman who sang at their Methodist Church. Blessings to her family.*

Ann Richards, flute, Nashville, TN

Ann Richards - April 12, 2018 at 12:49 PM

MC

“ To the family of Shirley,

It is with great fondness that I remember Dr. Zielinski. I had the pleasure of teaching with her at Belmont University. She was a kind, caring and compassionate person. I great role model for students and colleagues. I think of her daily in my continued work with people who suffer problems of voice.

In our casual conversations, she always spoke so fondly of her family. In her retirement it was her dream to be closer to her children and grandchildren. I am so happy that she had that opportunity.

*Best regards,
Mark Courey*

Mark Courey - February 28, 2018 at 05:31 AM

“*Dr. Shirley Zielinski was a major influence in my life both as a singer, and as a person. The generosity she extended to me was beyond anything I had ever experienced. I was a graduate student of hers at Belmont University from 1998-2000. However, I first got to "know" Dr. Z - as I called her - before I left Canada to come and do my graduate degree with her. My teacher at the University of Calgary (Canada) was a student of Richard Miller's and he told me about The Richard Miller Institute that Dr. Z directed at Belmont. I reached out to her about it, but in the end - as a struggling student – I simply couldn't get the finances together to travel to Nashville from Canada to attend the Institute. She wouldn't have it. She waived the tuition fee and made arrangements for me to stay at the home of one of her students. Not only that, but she made arrangements for a student to pick me up at the airport. I couldn't believe her kindness! But it didn't stop there. When I left Canada to study with Dr. Z, I was really, really desperate financially. Dr. Z always treated me with dignity, but she knew things were very hard for me. There were times when she left groceries for me in the Vocal Arts Lab. She even convinced a wealthy private student of hers - a successful local businessman - to provide an informal stipend for me now and again. Knowing her, she probably said something like, "you know, I have this student who could really use some help. Wouldn't it be just fantastic if you could help her out and be a blessing to her?" She was such a diplomat! But her generosity didn't stop there. I had no money to buy a new dress or shoes for my master's recital. She asked me what I was going to wear, and I told her I would just wear the generic black dress I had worn for all of my other performances and what not. She wouldn't have it. She drove me to a store, let me pick out a formal dress and shoes, and she paid for both. Yes. She did that. Here's her biggest act of generosity towards me though, at least in terms of material things. After Dr. Z retired from teaching altogether, she bestowed me with her entire music library. Yes, her entire collection of music teaching books and vocal literature. My husband and I packed up her library and loaded it in a van, and drove it back to our home, which was in Memphis at the time. I didn't ask for the Richard Miller Institute tuition waiver or billet*

situation. I didn't ask for groceries. I didn't ask for "informal" scholarship monies. I didn't ask for the new recital dress or shoes. I didn't ask for her incredible and amazing music library. She just gave and gave and gave to me. I know I'm forgetting stuff. Of course I am. If I had a dollar for every reference letter I asked her for, or every job application where I needed to put a name down as a reference, or anything like this, well, you get the idea. She was there. She was a mentor to me. She sometimes was a mother to me. She was a role model. She was so ambitious and such a genius. She had a work ethic that I aspired to. She had a sense of humour that I so related to, and so appreciated, especially when times were tough. I learned so much about singing and vocal pedagogy from her. She was just so smart. I learned how to run my own Richard Miller Institute when I was teaching at the University of Lethbridge (Canada). In fact, she told me I had to do it! In my first year there she said, "Patrice you have to bring Mr. Miller up to your university. It'll be good for your career." So I did - twice - both times at her urging. She made me a confident singer and a confident teacher. She left a profound mark on me - an impression that only a Master Teacher can leave on a student. She was an amazing singer, artist, and scholar too. But to encounter and study with a Master Teacher in one's lifetime is a very rare thing. And Dr. Z was a very rare gem. I wouldn't be the person I am today without her. I love you Dr. Z and will miss you. Prayers for your family.

Patrice Jegou-Oyelese - February 27, 2018 at 08:10 PM

CG

Patrice, this is a wonderful tribute to our dear, beloved, Dr. Z. I studied with her for my undergrad at Belmont from 1989-1994. She mentioned you to me when I went to visit her in 2002 in Cape G. You had a profound impact on her too. Another former student of hers and I were talking yesterday of Dr. Z's impact on our teaching in our own studios now.

Your experience with her is very similar to mine, with the exception of her music books. Lol She truly laid down her life for us and gave. A blessing and a tremendous example. Jesus said, "A student becomes like his teacher." What a blessing to have a teacher like Dr. Z impact our lives so profoundly. Thank you for sharing.

Christi (Carter) Griffith

christi griffith - April 15, 2018 at 01:45 PM

LM

“ Oh...how I loved this woman! I taught at Belmont University the same time Shirley was there. Her and Czeslaw would invite my husband and I to their house for dinner or parties! She did so much for the voice department at Belmont...it was just amazing. I lost touch when she moved away, but never forgot the impact she had on my life. Rest well my friend.

Lori Mechem - February 23, 2018 at 09:52 AM

BR

“ I adored Shirley (and Czeslaw, too). We worked together for many years on the operas at Belmont—Shirley directed, I costumed. At this very moment, I am wearing the amber earrings she brought to me from Poland after she and Czeslaw went there to visit his family. Shirley lit up every room she entered with her presence, her voice, her intelligence, her kindness, and her sense of humor. May Shirley's memory be a blessing to all who loved her. —BJ Rogers

BJ Rogers - February 22, 2018 at 08:18 PM

CG

Yes! Amber! She influenced my love of amber too.

christi griffith - April 15, 2018 at 01:46 PM

BL

“ *A wonderful human being. I remember singing with her and Czeslaw in the early '70's. It was one of the most memorable times of my life. She was always joyful, with a wonderful smile. My condolences to Lucian and his family. God bless you all. - Bob Limbaugh*

Bob Limbaugh - February 22, 2018 at 07:15 PM

DP

“ *As a fellow colleague of Shirley's (we even hailed from the Eastman School at different times!) I felt a particular loss when she left Belmont to move on to other things in her life so long ago. The rarity of her talent was more than cemented for me when I heard her perform the composition Pierrot Lunaire by Arnold Schoenberg using the required Sprechstimme in German created by Schoenberg, and done as well as anyone could do it. This piece is rarely tackled even by the most accomplished vocalists but Shirley had the scholastic and performing background to do it without flinching. Her musical and intellectual attainment was enormous, and most of us knew it especially after she left Belmont go on.*

William Pursell

Dr. William Pursell - February 21, 2018 at 11:40 PM

WE

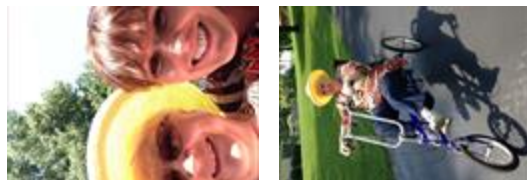
“ Will, Astrid and Eliana purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Shirley McGaugh Zielinski.



Will, Astrid and Eliana - February 21, 2018 at 03:54 PM

KS

“ Dr. Zielinski was my vocal coach at Belmont University and so much more than words can express!!!! How could I have known this unique teacher would then take all the love and spirit she had for music and keep teaching me throughout my life as a dear friend? She was a true light here - her work ethic unstoppable - (believe me if she could get my friend Robin and I to sing full operas - that was amazing), her passion for music and the truth of it inspiring, her laugh infectious, her spirit positive and she out-shined us all. She was my get-away over the last years and although she appreciated me coming to see her I needed her just as much. We would laugh at so many silly things like when she tripped and fell down - she was always falling down - and hit her eye that turned into a black eye and then she got pulled over for speeding and the police officer let her off because he thought she was a victim of domestic violence - hey whatever works! I also always told her she should write a book about her life - you could not have dreamed up the interesting things she had experienced and accomplished! She will remain in my heart daily and her light will keep me smiling! I love you Dr. Z.



Korene Stevens - February 21, 2018 at 01:02 PM

CG

Brava! So we'll said, Korene! I too wish she'd have written a book. But her influence was truly in her care for us—mind body and spirit. Are you still singing? I visited her back in 2002 and she mentioned you and Robin. Did you both continue to study with her?

christi griffith - April 15, 2018 at 01:53 PM

BB

“ I adored this beautiful elegant lady. She was my colleague and friend at Belmont. Shirley and Czeslaw were so thoughtful and kind to my wife and I when we first arrived in Nashville in 1990. And hosted our going away party at their home in 1992 with some kid running around the yard dressed in a chicken costume and Belmont's Bluegrass Band playing in the background. I was her stage director for the Opera Workshop for the two years at Belmont and we tried together to be a support to one another and bridge between the commercial and classical programs at Belmont. In addition to her "perfect" singing voice, I remember our great heart-to-heart talks about life and music, and laughing uncontrollably together about life and music.

Bruce Bennett - February 21, 2018 at 11:50 AM

CG

Bruce Bennett! I was at that party! Lol One time I was having a lesson in your studio, practicing my blues scatting, and she came in and began scatting with me. My classical teacher across the hall from my commercial teacher. God bless you—you captured her fun silly side. Much love to you,

Christi (Carter) Griffith

christi griffith - April 15, 2018 at 01:58 PM

JP

“*Dr Shirley Zielinski was the bsst voice teacher I ever had while I was getting my Masters in music at SEMO University. She developed my voice into a coloratura soprano for my masters recital and taught me much in the way of teaching voice and music of all ages. She was amazing and I was so blessed to have known her.*
Janet Thompson Kern Presson

Janet Thompson Presson - February 20, 2018 at 09:59 PM

DM

“*I was a friend of Dr. Zielinski at Belmont University. Once she and I traveled to Dresden, Germany together to work with students at the Karl Maria von Weber Hochschule fur Musik. Several years in October, she and I would also go to Oberlin College where we both studied with the great pedagogue, Mr. Richard Miller. With Mr. Miller, Shirley ran an institute in Nashville which attracted many singers each summer for six years. Our voice laboratory at Belmont University is named in her honor.*

On a light note, Shirley and I laughed whenever possible about the most mundane things. In honor of her beloved husband Czeslaw, she named her small Honda Civic "Pipidufka". It got us up to Ohio several times. She worked for a time as a translator for the Mercedes company during her years living in Europe. We laughed about funny calls she would receive about defective cars. When my son was four years old, he called her "Shirley Burly" to her great delight.

Shirley and Czeslaw sang several times at the church in Columbia, TN were I served as Minister of Music. They were gifted artists who had an interesting life with each other. I miss them both. Beyond this veil I am sure they are singing.

Dr. Keith Moore - February 20, 2018 at 09:01 PM

CG

Beautifully stated, Dr. Moore.

christi griffith - April 15, 2018 at 02:00 PM

SD

“ *My deepest sympathies.... I absolutely loved Shirley. She was at Belmont University when I arrived to teach commercial voice in 1995. I will never forget how welcoming she was to me and how many fun conversations we had. She had a smile that could light up a room and she was fun, fun, fun! She was a dedicated teacher and her students loved her. She was also unconventional and would sing the way she wanted to! This always reminded me of my teacher from the Eastman School-Jan DeGaetani. They both broke all the rules of classical singing and they had their own style! I have missed Shirley since she left Nashville so many years ago. She will always have a special place in my heart!
Love and many blessings...
Sandra Dudley, Jazz Vocalist and Educator*

Sandra Dudley - February 20, 2018 at 06:00 PM

JA

“ *I send my sincere condolences to the family of Shirley Zielinski. I enjoyed her musicianship, her vibrant personality and was grateful for her friendship with me as a Belmont colleague. I lost my brother this past Valentine's Day and he too was 83. I send my deep sympathy to all loved Shirley. John Arnn*

John Arnn - February 20, 2018 at 05:44 PM

JE

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



Joan Eakin - February 20, 2018 at 04:15 PM

LD

“ I light a candle in gratitude for Dr. Zielinski's many contributions to the music program at SEMO, and to the Cape Girardeau community.



Laura Davis - February 20, 2018 at 09:05 AM

RB

“ Dr. ZS was bigger than life, angel, friend, family, support system, believer in all things good and the best in people. My dear friend Korene and I would escape from life from time to time and go visit her as life would permit but regularly would text words of encouragement and love. She will be greatly missed!



Robin Blue - February 19, 2018 at 07:48 PM

CG

Love this! Thank you for sharing, Robin. She was amazing.

christi griffith - April 15, 2018 at 02:03 PM

ME

“ *This lady of beauty and grace had a presence about her that was a gift to us. I will hear in my memories her musical voice and joyful laughter. I will remember our endless "co-mother-in-law" inspirational talks, the "just between us" healing conversations, and the love and respect we had for each other and our families. I pray God's blessings and her strong spirit will be with us everyday!*

Marylène Elliott - February 19, 2018 at 07:13 PM