



## William J. Maurer

April 20, 1937 - May 26, 2020

William J. Maurer 83, of Greenport and longtime resident, passed away peacefully at home in the company of his loving wife on Monday May 25, 2020. Born April 20, 1937 in Tremont, PA, he was the son of the late William D. and Ellen (Cleary) Maurer. William was a graduate of Ithaca College, where he earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Music Education. He also attended Columbia Teachers College. He taught all levels of instrumental and vocal music in the Hudson City School District for 37 years, at John L. Edwards Elementary School and the Hudson High School, among other assignments, inspiring in thousands of children the joys of performance and a syncopated beat. He was also active in regional classical and contemporary musical performance organizations, including, most recently the Stockbridge Sinfonia in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He played in the pit orchestra of Two of Us Productions for several years, and, earlier in his career, played alongside renowned opera soprano, Patrice Munsel, as well as accompanying jazz greats Lionel Hampton and Stan Kenton. He was a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus. In addition to his beloved wife of 58 years, Cynthia A. (Romanello) Maurer of Greenport, he is survived by his sons, Luca Maurer of Ithaca, NY, and Bill Maurer of Long Beach, CA, as well as his brother Edward Maurer and his sister Ellen (Maurer) Polansky. Memorial contributions may be made to the ASCAP Foundation, which operates and supports vital programs that impact millions of music creators and music lovers of all ages every year. [ASCAPfoundation.org](http://www.ascapfoundation.org). There are no funeral services. To leave online condolences please visit: <http://www.saccofuneralhome.com>

# Comments

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“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Maurer's passing. He was such a great music director. I learned to play the flute under his direction. Even into adulthood, when I would see the Maurers out and about, they still remembered me. They would often speak of their sons with such pride. I was so happy to see Mr. Maurer still very active with music. My condolences Mrs. Maurer and family.

**Karrie Allen Buratto** - June 03, 2020 at 02:17 PM

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“ My deepest condolences for your loss. The HCSD was blessed to have Mr. Mauer share his love of music with so many students for so many years and I was lucky to be one of them. Wonderful memories! May he rest in peace. - Tara Becker (Hettesheimer), one of the kids on the bus from down on Hallenbeck Road and a former 4th grade student of Mrs. Mauer.

**Tara Becker** - June 02, 2020 at 10:55 PM

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“ Bill Maurer was a gentle “giant of a teacher” and a lifelong friend who loved playing music precisely and from the heart with excellence and emotion, and loved inspiring many of us to do the same.

Bill mentored many of his students, including me, to love playing ensemble music, jazz, big band, and the ability to play many instruments. Although unassuming in personality, with a self depreciating sense of humor, Bill was a master of rhythms, pitch, tone, styles and dynamics, listening skills, encouragement, and teamwork. His faithful and consistent musicianship and connection made music come alive. He loved studying and sharing intricate pieces and was an outstanding performer. He taught music as a whole language, and the detail and big picture skills needed to play together. He always encouraged life-long learning and ensemble playing and provided many opportunities to do so.

Always up for the musical challenge, he knew every instrument and played each well. Also a talented conductor and arranger, Bill wrote and arranged pieces to inspire us often playing each instrument to get the desired sound, and challenging us to do the same. Playing a challenging piece was invigorating and playing it together was even more fun. He mentored us to realize that the discipline of practice produced results worth the effort and that students can also mentor one another. He taught us life skills of tenacity and grace and excellence as well as an appreciation for those growing along the way toward similar goals and the ability to encourage one another. He saw music as a respite and an ability to connect and to make a difference; and he made a great difference in many young lives for the better.

First in his life has always been his devoted wife Cindy. Together they made a life-long team. He also dearly loved and was so proud of his kids. I loved seeing both Bill and Cindy light up when they spoke of either of them, both when the kids were young and when they got older too.

Bill also loved his students, his second family of sorts, and equipped us to connect with people. We were not just a job. We were colleagues. Members of his team. He often took several of us to participate in the Ghent Band with talented seniors (mentoring and inspiring us and them), or to enjoy the Albany Symphony.

Bill used his brilliance to make joy in the midst of hardship. Even when his eyesight or health waned, he was able to continue to play by studying and memorizing diligently, and seeking out opportunities to perform. He and Cindy would travel hours to participate in musicals and in church productions where he would contribute with quiet finesse with his playing and his quiet inspiration.

When we visited in later years, Bill, always the teacher, would ask me if I was playing something new, or would give me a piece he found challenging so I could study it. It was a special joy and privilege to share some of my own students with Bill. He was glad to see the skills he had inspired move to the next generation of students. My students, too were blessed to work briefly with him as he inspired and encouraged them (and me) in the process.

Bill was a true blessing in my life and he is remembered and missed. His legacy continues in the lives of those he inspired.

**Antoinette Turner** - June 02, 2020 at 03:35 PM

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“ Sorry your loss.Mr Maurer was always an enthusiastic lover of music and encouraged his students to love music too.

**Diane sacco** - May 31, 2020 at 09:41 PM

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“ Sorry to hear of the passing of Mr Maurer, my longtime music teacher from Jr. High through High School. I was a member of the Hudson High band, orchestra, and dance band. Many memories, and good times, funny stories he would tell. Even years after school days were over, I would meet Mr. & Mrs. Maurer shopping and they would always remember me. Thank you Mr Maurer for being my mentor for playing the cornet/trumpet. My condolences to the family. Rest in Peace,  
Bruce Mitchinson

**Bruce Mitchinson** - May 31, 2020 at 01:44 AM

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“ Joann McCagg lit a candle in memory of William J. Maurer



**Joann McCagg** - May 30, 2020 at 04:08 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William J. Maurer.



May 30, 2020 at 03:45 PM

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“ Condolences to the family from 3 generations: Becky Meicht Siegel, Kerry and George Meicht, and granddaughter Jaden. Many memories with Mrs. Maurer and 4th grade at Greenport and most recently as Jaden was in reading program with Mrs. Maurer. Mr. Maurer created a bookcover for one of Jaden's writings. Will miss chatting during grocery shopping. Cindy, with appreciation for the care and happiness and friendship received by all of us. We wish you well. Becky (Meicht) Siegel and family

**Becky Siegel** - May 30, 2020 at 11:32 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Another era gone. Thank you, Bill for all the great music and times you gave us! Rest in peace.  
Guy Apicella

**Guy Apicella** - May 30, 2020 at 09:24 AM

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“ Condolences from 3 generations....Becky (Meicht) Siegel, Kerry & George Meicht and my granddaughter Jaden. While I became close with Cindy during the time each of my children were in 4th grade, one of the most memorable events was Jaden having Mrs. Maurer as her reading partner with Mr. Maurer creating a book cover for one of Jaden's stories. So very thoughtful and generous. God's blessing to your family. Love, Becky



**Becky** - May 29, 2020 at 11:02 AM



“ Thank you Mr Maurer; he showed me several instruments at JLE; he insisted I play something; trombone-no thanks; French horn- no; saxophone- that’s a yes sir; my eyes lit up; such a beautiful instrument; thank you Mr Maurer for the introduction of organized music; My condolences; Bill Maurer and family. He’s always been in my greatest of memories. Rest now

leal - May 29, 2020 at 10:54 AM

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“ Cindy, Sharon and I would like to express our deepest condolences to you and your family on Bill’s passing. My fondest memory of Bill, and I will never forget this, was when I was principal of the Middle School. I wanted to offer a humanities course for eighth graders. I asked Bill if he would would teach the music portion. Cindy, I have never seen him so enthusiastic. Unfortunately, central administration rejected our proposal. This would have been an excellent learning experience for our students. Even though I haven’t seen you in nearly 20 years, I hope that you are in good health. I will keep Bill, you, and your family in my prayers. May he Rest In Peace.  
George Esposito

George Esposito - May 29, 2020 at 10:30 AM

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“ I am very sorry to hear of the passing of a long time friend and co-worker. He was a VERY talented musician and and a great friend. I remember him playing the piano before school started. He also was a superb clarinetist and enjoyed attending concerts at CGCC. My condolences to you Cindy and the rest of the family. You will all be in my prayers.  
Richard Nobes

Richard Nobes - May 28, 2020 at 07:28 PM

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“ Cindy,

My condolences to you on the passing of Bill. Bill was gifted in his field of music and shared it with the children of the Hudson City School District and throughout Columbia County with many performances as well as being a member of the Ghent Band. He will be greatly missed.

DL - May 28, 2020 at 06:08 PM



“ I loved music class with him; two great memories I have are the competitions where 2 students would each pick a song to sing and on "go" sing their songs at the same time in the attempts not to screw up first. The other and its still my favorite...every Halloween he would do an animated story to "Night on Bald Mountain" with spirits who would raise up and have their one night to celebrate life for the night with music and dancing, until having to return to their graves once again for the year when the sun begins to come up....

**Lynn** - May 28, 2020 at 07:25 AM