



Alan Edward Ettinger

May 20, 1932 - September 5, 2009

Alan Edward Ettinger, of New Britain, Connecticut died Saturday, September 5, 2009, at age 77. He was born May 20, 1932 in the Bronx, New York, to Philip Ettinger & Elsie Pearson.

A lifelong musician & music educator, Mr. Ettinger taught at The Grove School in Madison, North Branford High School, North Branford Intermediate & Northford Intermediate schools. He also taught privately & played with numerous musical groups over the years, playing jazz, classical & other musical styles.

Mr. Ettinger lived in Madison for many years, moving to Cromwell and lastly to New Britain where he contributed generously to the New Britain arts community. He served as President of the New Britain Symphony Board of Directors, the New Britain Arts Alliance, & was involved with Trinity-on-Main Cultural Center & the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Mr. Ettinger is survived by a son, Joel Ettinger wife Rachel Must-Ettinger, of Orange, CT; & a daughter, Claire Sehringer husband Gottfried Sehringer, of Wayland, MA; grandchildren Samuel & Jacob Ettinger, Gabriel & Larissa Sehringer; his former wife, Mary Ann Ettinger, of Manchester, CT, He was predeceased by his mother, Elsie Pearson Resnick and step-father, Robert Resnick.

A memorial will be held Sunday, September 20, at 2:00 PM, at Trinity-on-Main, 19 Chestnut Street, New Britain. Donations may be sent to the New Britain Symphony Orchestra or the New Britain Museum of American Art. The Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy by clicking on "GUESTBOOK" at the bottom of this page.

Tribute Wall

KH

“ Another student of Mr. Ettinger would like to add her memories and condolences. I took clarinet lessons with Mr. Ettinger from 6th grade on, including those summer lessons someone else already wrote about. Some of my best memories of Mr. Ettinger come from those summer sessions--that was when he told the best stories. Many music teachers start off as teachers, but Mr. Ettinger was a musician first and foremost. He pushed us to play our best because not to would be to disappoint him. I started college as a clarinet major because of him, and continued playing even after changing majors. I don't remember many of my high school teachers' names, but I could write pages of memories of Mr "E". My best to his family--he was a wonderful man and I am lucky to have known him for as long as I did.

Karen Hubachek
7810 College Lane
Annandale, VA 22003
formerly of North Branford

Karen Hubachek - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ I was saddened to hear of Mr. Ettinger's passing. I had him as a music teacher from fifth or sixth grade through high school although I didn't have him through all of junior high he remained my primary teacher in my mind. My Dad also taught in the school system so I had a little more insight into his personality than the average student. I do know my dad quite enjoyed him and was sympathetic to his point of view in the beaucracy of the school administration. He was passionate about his music. He had so many students go on into music as a career that this always reinforced my thoughts of what a good teacher he was. He instilled a love of music in his students and was an excellent teacher. A true representation of how good at his field he was. I often tell friends of the story that my high school music teacher said that anyone could learn to play by ear. He spent seven years trying to teach me and then said, well, maybe not everyone. That always makes me chuckle. But he never discouraged me from playing-I was not one who went into music. I was adequate, but primary interests lay elsewhere-still it says something that I stuck with my music with him and all the way through college. Another strong memory I have is of taking lessons with him in the summer time in the high school gym. I played flute and that summer I probably hit the peak of my limited abilities. I remember the acoustics of my instrument in the gym and you know something-it did sound pretty darn good! He definitely had a positive influence on me and I am so sorry to think he is no longer here. My deepest condolences to his family.

Ann Hickey Roberts - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ Dear family of Alan Ettinger

I am sorry to hear of Mr Ettinger's passing. I was one of his many students. I smile as I think of him conducting our high school band. I learned as we all did what every gesture meant-waving, pointing, grimacing, tapping of the baton on his stand, and the occasional "flying" baton". He felt the music, he showed us all how to share that most wonderful gift. We made great music together under his direction. I was one of his many "All State" players. I laugh out loud when I think of our marching band he intensely disliked it but did it because it was required. He was passionate, funny and one of the most effective and memorable teachers of my high school career. I have thought of him often through the years as my ability to play waxed and waned through children and changes in my career. Music remains a part of my life today to a large extent from his influence.

As I move ahead each decade in my life I am 55 I appreciate even more those people who influenced my life in a significant way. Mr Ettinger is certainly on that list.

I am so sorry for your loss.

*Anita Baldo DeAngelo
444 Pond Hill Rd
Wallingford, CT 06492*

Anita Baldo DeAngelo - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Mr. Ettinger was my band teacher for my four years at the North Branford High School. It was a pleasure having him as a teacher. He was instrumental in helping me prepare to play in the All Connecticut State Band and Southwest CT State Band. Sorry for the pun. I always enjoyed hearing him play his tenor sax and listening to his stories of growing up in the Bronx. He will be missed.*

Craig Hubachek - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Our families wish to thank everyone for their wonderful support and encouragement. Your thoughtfulness, friendship and love continue to give us strength during this difficult time.

We are also grateful for stories about our father, and memories of your time with him. Your comments get read and re-read many times; they help sustain us. Therefore, we encourage everyone to write and share their experiences with us. If you’d like to include your email address, we’d like to respond.

Thank you for writing!!

Joel Ettinger & family
Claire Ettinger Sehringer & family
ettinger@optonline.net

Joel Ettinger - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ I was a student of Mr. Ettinger's from 1974 - 1978. He was quite a presence on the podium. The way he was so fully engaged in his conducting made it impossible not to be just as excited and gave me the ability to get lost in the music. The band room was my favorite place in the school. The sparkle in his eyes told you he was so very full of life and his smile said you had better watch him very closely. Occasionally, his son, Joel would play with us. Cherished memories. I imagine him playing harder than ever now. I hope the rest can keep up with him.

Last week my oldest son, a guitar player, asked my youngest son, a drummer, if he played with passion and all that he was. His message lives on.

To his family, please accept my most heart-felt condolences in the wake of your loss. He touched so very many lives. I am in his debt for the gift of music.

Lisa Gunn Crudden - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ I met and frequently visited with Alan at the NBMAA docent's meetings and enjoyed his company not only in CT but, on the Spain Trip in 2008 which Bill and I through our company, TravelBuilders International, arranged for NBMAA.

We've lost a very congenial, bright, talented and enjoyable person who loved working with children in his docent role.

Unfortunately, we are unable to attend the memorial service on Sunday. We are very diappointed as we wanted to be there.

So to the family, we know you've lost a very special loved one and to Alan we say "Thanks, Alan, for being a friend! It was a pleasure knowing you and we'll miss you."

Joani and Bill

Joani Olsen and Bill Kenney - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ I was so sorry to hear of Alan's death! as so many others have noted, he had an infectious sense of humor and a wry smile always at the ready. I will miss him dearly, as will the New Britain arts scene - it won't be the same without you, Alan, but keep blowing those riffs! You obviously touched many lives with your music and spirit.

Pan Riley - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I met Al in 1992 when we played together in the Executive Red Coat big band, and have played with him since in numerous bands. Al was instrumental in introducing me to most of the CT-based musicians I play with currently. He was always one of my favorite sax players, and was a joy to be with on a gig or rehearsal, due to his infectious enthusiasm and joie de vivre. The big band in heaven just picked up a great sax player!

John Ragan - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Mr. Ettinger was my clarinet teacher from September 1970 until September 1976. In those those short six years, Alan expanded my talents with his insight, recreations, philosophy, and smiles and music. I admired him, feared him, turned to him. He helped me navigate the teen years and gave me music, especially with Tuesday's Child
I love Alan Ettinger.
--Mike Bienkowski, Associate Professor, Economics and Business Law and Innovation Thinking, Sage Colleges

Michael Bienkowski - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Mr. E. had a great influence on many students at North Branford High School. His love of music was contagious. I sang in the choir and he taught my music appreciation class. I am grateful to have known him. Thank you Mr. E. I bet you are adding your own groove up there in heaven.

Maudeen Battista Dinan - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Back in high school, I had no idea just how far reaching Mr. E's teachings would be. I remember him always emphasizing the rhythm and groove of a phrase or piece. He would say that if you got the rhythmic phrasing and intent of something, the notes would fall into place. He introduced many of us to more complex jazz changes and improvising, over those years. I remember I was having a hard time soloing--particularly, finding the right notes to play. He picked up "Bubbles", his tenor sax, and he layed down a 32 bar solo with just one note--just one!! He would squeeze it, slam it, caress it, and just lay down the most interesting rhythmic phrases with it--he just grooved. And he would smile that sideways smile and say, "you don't need a lotta notes!" I have always had an easier time with complex rhythms and stylistic phrasing because of his teaching, and I have never stopped talking about how much he has influenced my playing and approach to music in all these years. I am still a gigging musician today, and Mr. Ettinger has a lot to do with that. His tremendous passion and energy was ever-present when he taught or played.

Here's to you, Mr. E!! I'm still here and I'm still giggin' because of your influence, sir---I can see that mischievous wry smile and the light dancing in his eyes, right now.....Peace

Keith Simmonds - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ I met Alan when I taught in the North Branford School system. I was able to spend time with him almost daily. We shared "hall duty". He actually made "hall duty" fun! There was always a smile on his face. He was also a man one could confide in and receive wonderful advise from. I send sincere condolences to his family.

Eleanora N. Gambino - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ "Doc Al" was how I knew and fondly referred to Mr. Ettinger while attending North Branford High School in the 1970's. He encouraged and inspired me to change from playing second trumpet to baritone horn and the valve trombone. He was my first real connection to jazz music and I loved to hear him scat a variety of phrases. He seemed to always wear a smile and made me feel like I was part of his family. I will miss you dearly. Rest in peace my friend! Do-got do-got, doo-dot!!!

Gregory Mouning - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ It was always a joy to see Alan in the office. He would always have a joke and a smile. I will truly miss him.

Mark Piekarsky M.D. - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM