

A great man who shone the light of music on all those he encountered, passed into history on April 25, 2020 in Swift Current, SK at age 67.

Gregory “Greg” James William McLean was born on April 18, 1953 in Reston, MB to his parents William and Margaret McLean (both predeceased). He was raised on a family homestead, Avondale Seed Farm, where his rural upbringing instilled in him a fondness of small communities and the outdoors.

Greg received his Bachelor of Music in 1975 from Brandon University where he met his wife, Marcia (née Yaholnitsky). They were married for 42 years and raised three children — Brendan, Kelsea (Alex Kielly, their children, George Gregory and Rosie Margaret McKielly), and Taylor.

In addition to his immediate family, Greg leaves behind his sisters, Carol Purves (Bob) and Joan Robinson (Dale); his brothers-in-law, Dr. Stuart Yaholnitsky (Willa) and Dr. Bruce Yaholnitsky (Gwen); and many much-loved nieces and nephews.

Greg was a master teacher who was devoted to passionate music making and known for his ability to empower and inspire his students through the pursuit of excellence. He began his teaching career in Killarney, MB (1975-1977), after which he built distinguished high school band programs in Esterhazy, SK (1977-1989), and Swift Current, SK (1989-2010).

Greg was a lifelong learner and advanced his education with a Diploma of Fine Arts from the University of Calgary in 1988 and a Master of Music from the University of Manitoba in 2006. He and Marcia retired together in 2010. Their retirement did not mark a time of idleness, but rather a time of renewed energy to pursue further musical endeavors.

In 2011-2012, Greg became the Interim Director of Bands at the University of Regina. In the years that followed, he remained active as an adjudicator, guest conductor, and clinician across Canada. He conducted the Swift Current Oratorio Choir’s annual spring concert with the Regina Symphony Players and directed the Swift Current Jazz Orchestra, an ensemble he established.

An avid fisherman and hunter, Greg enjoyed spending time with friends and family outdoors. Greg will be remembered not only for his steadfast dedication to music, but also for his warm, charismatic personality, his zest for life, and the genuine care he showed for his family, friends, colleagues, and students.

The McLean’s would like to thank Brent Ghiglione who organized all the music and musicians for the service. Thanks to Aaron Thinglestad who arranged for the equipment. As well, a special thanks to all the musicians who travelled and prepared music for the service. This has been an act of love.

In Loving Memory of

GREG MCLEAN

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 2:00 pm
Bridgeway Community Church, Swift Current, SK

OFFICIATING – Rev. Lois Bukar

PIANIST – Amy Wiens

HYMN – “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

EULOGY – Brendan, Kelsea, and Taylor McLean

MUSICAL TRIBUTES

WIND BAND – BRENT GHIGLIONE (CONDUCTOR)

“Nimrod” – Edward Elgar arr. Alfred Reed

“Trauersinfonie” – Richard Wagner arr. Erik Leiden

JAZZ BAND – GORDON FOOTE (CONDUCTOR)

“If I Could” – Pat Metheny

“And So It Goes” – Billy Joel arr. Gord Foote
(this was the tune arranged for Greg & Marcia's retirement)

“Hay Burner” – Sammy Nestico

SIRENS – KELSEA MCLEAN (CONDUCTOR)

“Spark” – Eric William Barnum

ROBYN DRIEDGER-KLASSEN

“Im Abendrot” – Richard Strauss (from 4 last Songs)

Accompanied by Amy Wiens

USHERS – Carla and Aaron Phoenix

INTERMENT – Preceded Memorial Service at
Mount Pleasant Burial Park, Swift Current, SK

DONATIONS

Sask Band Assoc. – Greg McLean Memorial Scholarship
www.saskband.org or 2205 Victoria Ave, Regina, SK, S4P 0S4

SCCHS – The Greg & Marcia McLean Scholarship for Musical Passion
1100 11th Ave NE, Swift Current, SK, S9H 2V6

ARRANGEMENTS – Swift Current Funeral Home

“Im Abendrot” (At Sunset)

We have through need and joy
gone hand in hand,
from wandering together over the
quiet land, now we rest.

Bending about the valleys,
the air already darkens,
two larks alone still rise
dreaming into the haze.

Draw near and let them whirr,
soon it is time to sleep,
that we not lose ourselves
in this loneliness.

O distant, quiet peace!
So deep in the sunset
how wandering-weary we are –
is that perhaps death?

*Text by: Joseph von Eichendorff
Translation by: Laurel Parsons*



GREG MCLEAN

APRIL 18, 1953

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APRIL 25, 2020