



J. Leonard Oxley

February 19, 2016

J. LEONARD OXLEY

PIANIST, CONDUCTOR, ARRANGER/ORCHESTRATOR

OXLEY, J. Leonard, 87, of Teaneck, formerly of Harrisburg, PA passed away on Friday February 19, 2016. Beloved husband of Nancy A. Oxley (nee Adams). Devoted father of Jill and her husband Ian. Loving grandfather of Anna. Dear brother of Eric Oxley. Dear brother-in-law to David and Ronald Adams. Predeceased by his sister Laura Lewis.

Mr. Oxley had a career in Musical Theatre that spanned nearly 70 years. An extraordinary artist, he trained at Juilliard. Early in his career he was the Music Director at Harrisburg Community Theater, where he met his wife. He was a protégé of esteemed Broadway composer Luther Henderson. Mr. Oxley was the Music Director of the NJ Tap Ensemble for the past 20 years. He accompanied and worked with some of theater's most celebrated artists, including Gregory Hines, André De Shields, Savion Glover, Phylicia Rashad, Nell Carter, Polly Bergen, Carol Channing, Mary Martin and Robert Preston. His numerous credits include Broadway, Off-Broadway, National and International tours of Ain't Misbehavin', Sophisticated Ladies, Black and Blue, Jelly's Last Jam, Big Deal, André Heller's Wonderhouse, Play On! and Hello Dolly.

Family and friends are invited for a memorial visitation at the Volk Leber Funeral Home, 789 Teaneck Road, Teaneck on Wednesday from 1-3pm.

Service will commence at 2:30pm.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the St. Thomas Episcopal Church 1 W 53rd St, New York, NY 10019, stthomaschurch.org.

To view J. Leonard's tribute page please visit volkleber.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Teaneck
789 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666
(201) 836-0202
info@volkleber.com
<https://www.volkleber.com>

Service

FEB **24**. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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789 Teaneck Road
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Tribute Wall



“ *J. Leonard Oxley*

October 08, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *J. Leonard Oxley*

October 08, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ *J. Leonard Oxley*

August 30, 2022 at 02:48 PM



“ *I loved Leonard. We all did. I worked with him at the Harrisburg Community Theatre, in Harrisburg, PA. I was very active at the HCT during most of my teen years, 1958-1963, and musical theatre--well, when I was at the Theatre during tryouts, rehearsals, or performances, I felt as though I had died and gone to Heaven. We miss you, Leonard!*

Debbie Kaufman Kennedy - August 26, 2022 at 12:47 PM

AT

“Missing you still Maestro Oxley. I'm making my debut with The Duke Ellington Center's Big Band tomorrow (Mercedes asked me to sing) and carrying you in my heart always. Thank you for putting me on the path to finding my voice. There are no words for the gratitude that I feel for you nor the love in my heart. I will never forget your wisdom, kindness, dedication to excellence, mentor ship, kindness, and love. To one of the best and with utmost respect always, I can only say, "Thank You, dear Elder. Thank you.”

A. Tucker-Mitchell - July 06, 2019 at 09:15 PM

MT

“Mr.Oxley made it possible for me to meet the great Gregory Hines in person.
I am grateful to have known him. God's gift to him was music. May the Lord
keep you all, his endeared family.

A friend in Christ

Ms. Taylor - March 27, 2016 at 10:33 PM

BN

“Jill and Mrs. Oxley, I am very sorry to hear of Mr. Oxley's passing. May he rest in Eternal Heavenly Peace. May God bless you and your entire family during this sad time.

*In Sympathy,
Balenda Nelson*

Balenda Nelain - March 02, 2016 at 09:51 AM

AB

“ To Jill and Mrs. Nancy Oxley,

*I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My heartfelt thoughts and condolences are with you at this time. I have so many wonderful childhood memories of being in your home and being with Mr. Oxley....such a warm, wonderful loving home with so many fond, fun, fabulous childhood memories! Prayers to you at this time. Even though the many years have brought us far apart, I can close my eyes and be brought back to the warmth of your living room and the happiness of MANY Many Childhood days spent there over the years, hearing Mr. Oxley's voice calling out for us (or usually me) to calm down a bit...such a patient, wonderful man! And all the times I dashed through the house and jumped on the furniture, like a reckless crazy child, he was so kind and calm and sweet...I will miss him and have the best memories of him. I even remember getting to hear his amazing musical talents! Thinking of you both.....
Abby Binder...*

abby binder - February 29, 2016 at 03:34 PM

WP

“ I along with so many others at The Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue will truly miss your presents at the 11am Services weekly

My prayers are with your wife and family

You were so dear to me

Dr William T Davis RN PhD

William T Davis RN PhD - February 29, 2016 at 08:13 AM

FK

“ In 1950, Leonard "Tink" helped my mother drive from Cincinnati, Ohio to California, and back. I was 10 and he was 21. We had a grand adventure. His father and my grandfather were brothers and he was my favorite cousin. Through the years, I saw his numerous performances, plays and musicals. Afterward, we always grabbed a bite to eat together. In the early 70s, Tink and Nancy brought their daughter Jill to meet my daughter Jill when we lived Lynnbrook Long Island. Ten years ago, Tink, Nancy and Jill visited me on Martha's Vineyard with Jill's baby. Years later, Jill helped my Jill reconnect me to my cousin after a long absence. I was saddened to hear of his passing after we had just recently found one another again. I will remember him through our shared history and through his wonderful music. I hope that music brings his family joy in the days and years to come. I will miss him.
Lovingly, Cousin Francine Kelly

Francine Kelly - February 25, 2016 at 08:18 PM

AF

“ Dave, Dani, Ali and I have the greatest memories of visiting Nan and Leonard many times in Teaneck. Leonard would drive us in to a show, or drop us off at Times square for a day in New York. Summer of 2014 we went into the city to see the 9/11 museum with Leonard and had a great day. Best memories were gathering around the piano and listening to him play, everyone singing, laughing, and being amazed at his talents.

Nan, Jill and family, so sorry for your loss. He was an incredible person and will be missed profoundly by the Adams Family South

Anita Francis - February 24, 2016 at 10:28 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of J. Leonard Oxley.*



February 23, 2016 at 12:35 PM



“ *The Francis Family sends our profoundest sympathies to Nancy and the Oxley family.*



Daniel Francis - February 23, 2016 at 12:33 PM



“ *Please know my thoughts and condolences are with Nancy, Jill and all of Leonard's family. I will deeply miss Leonard, his great smile, his music, his kindness and his wonderful sense of humor. I feel so blessed to have been able to work with him and learn so much from him. He was a class act and an inspiration as a musician and a person. He will always be in my heart.....*
Nicki Denner

Nicki Denner - February 23, 2016 at 11:49 AM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Nicki Denner - February 23, 2016 at 11:39 AM

GG

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



Germaine Goodson - February 22, 2016 at 12:24 AM

GG

“ Sending my Deepest Condolences to the Oxley Family... <3 <3 <3
Prayers & Light.

Hello Everybody,

We all know that saying "Good bye" to loved ones isn't easy....It seems like when it happens, you feel speechless. Yesterday morning, I got a call from my dance partner, Deborah Mitchell, (The RHYTHM QUEENS). She called to let me know that J. Leonard Oxley, known to almost everyone in the Broadway community, as Leonard, had passed away. We knew he was not feeling too well, these past 2 years, but for some reason, no one expected him to leave us...

Leonard was the BEST Musical Director, Conductor, Pianist, Composer & Musician. He shared his EXTRAORDINARY talent in many Broadway shows. He was a genius on the piano, and he was humble in the process of creating perfection. Deborah & I are very sad to loose such a great man. He was a kind soul, and was always there to help whenever you needed him. He has composed musical arrangements for our act,(The RHYTHM QUEENS), for Deborah's company, NEW JERSEY TAP ENSEMBLE, and for my "Intro. To Tap Dance", for my DVD. (those are only a few of the things he's done). Our success would not have been possible without his guidance and inspiration. Leonard, was truly loved & will never be forgotten. R.I.P. Our Dear Loved One. heart emoticon heart emoticon heart emoticon You were and always will be special to us, and to your Family, Friends, & to All that worked with You. Deborah & I are Blessed to have had you in our lives. You've been a wonderful Friend. We will miss you, Leonard. Thank You for Everything we shared over the many years of Dancing & Singing with You! You're the BEST! heart emoticon heart emoticon heart emoticon

*Thank you, Vibecke Dahle for taking our photos. smile emoticon
Germaine Goodson (Tap)*



Germaine Goodson - February 22, 2016 at 12:17 AM

GG

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Love, forever,
Germaine Goodson & Deborah Mitchell (The RHYTHM QUEENS)*



Germaine Goodson - February 21, 2016 at 09:03 PM

JM

“ *My Deepest Sympathy to the Oxley Family. My thoughts go back to the pride and love for family that was shared with me through Mr. Oxley's Mother. I had the honor of doing Mrs. Oxley's hair for many years and we became good friends. I can remember how she loved to visit her children and her excitement when going to New York and attending those many special performances with all of you. She remains in a special place in my heart and I am sure when that time came for her loving son Leonard to cross over , she was there. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. Sincerely,
JeneeLynn*

jeneelynn maugans - February 21, 2016 at 09:40 AM

ES

“ *I was in his high school class and I am sure that none of us have ever forgotten him. His talents we could already see. My sympathy to all his family. Elizabeth Hean Stone*

Elizabeth Hean Stone - February 21, 2016 at 07:51 AM

DM

J. Leonard Oxley was a beloved member of our New Jersey Tap Dance Ensemble family. What he contributed to our organization not only as our Music Director, but also as a friend, and teacher is immeasurable. His music will play on for us. No words can express how much we will miss him. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family with our deepest sympathy.

*Deborah Mitchell, Founder
New Jersey Tap Dance Ensemble*

Deborah Mitchell - February 21, 2016 at 09:43 AM

ES

Leonard Oxley was one of my most beloved neighbors. I knew he had been ill but I have been in denial of his eventual leaving us. I have missed him from day one, after he & Nancy stopped by to bid me goodbye, when they moved away only just a few months back. Now the day is here where our dear friend is no longer on this earth but I have faith his beautiful talented soul is in more restful place where he can breathe free & easy. Leonard was such a lovely man & I thoroughly enjoyed his company & conversation. My heartfelt condolences to Nancy & Jill and family. It is always so sad to say goodbye forever...but we will meet up again in that other realm. "To live in hearts left behind is not to die" Thank you so much for your friendship & Rest in Peace dear friend. Elizabeth Salas

Elizabeth Salas - February 23, 2016 at 10:12 AM

MF

To the Oxley family, having met Leonard through my relationship with the New Jersey Tap Ensemble, I will always remember his smile and how easy going and pleasant he was while working with the Company. My sincerest condolences to you all. His talent and his genius will be solely missed. Most Sincerely, Marie Thomas Foster

Marie Foster - February 25, 2016 at 10:51 AM

MT

Thank you Leonard. Through you I met the great Gregory Hines in person. God's gift to you is music. Blessings to your family. A friend.

Ms. Taylor - March 27, 2016 at 10:22 PM