

In Memoriam: Mary Lou Paschal 1935-2017



Mary Lou was a pioneer and a pillar of the North Carolina early music community. A gifted pianist, singer and composer who grew up in Western North Carolina, Mary Lou graduated from Oberlin Conservatory with a Bachelor degree in music, studying both piano and organ, and earned a Master of Music from the University of Mississippi. After returning to North Carolina she settled in Charlotte and served as organist and choirmaster at various churches. It was at Myers Park Baptist church that she met the love of her life and husband of almost 50 years, John Paschal. She taught at Winthrop University in nearby South Carolina and eventually was appointed full-time music instructor at Central Piedmont Community College. She taught there beginning in 1970 and became Division Director of Music, Art and Design, retiring in 2001.

It was during her tenure there in the early 1970's that she was asked to start a recorder class. This began her journey into, and love of, the world of early music. She started the Evening Recorder Ensemble and the Early Music Consort and then started collecting instruments in earnest. So many have benefitted from the use of her instruments and her contagious enthusiasm. So many times at the end of a rehearsal she would exclaim, "That was fun!"

In spite of her unwavering devotion to early music, she maintained her love of composing and her piano skills, touring the USA, Europe and Asia with her niece, flautist Teresa Beaman. Together they have recorded several CDs, including *Flute Flora* which was heard in the pre-concert slide show, and most recently a collection of American folk songs arranged for flute and piano by Mary Lou.

Gail Schroeder writes, "There are so many reasons Mary Lou will be missed, but from my perspective as her friend, viol teacher and coach of innumerable consort sessions, she was one of the most generous, dedicated, hard-working and positive people I've ever had the pleasure of teaching."

Martha Bishop adds "I can say that she was always a pure delight to have in class--so many good questions and such enthusiasm. She constantly encouraged other students to grapple with challenges. She was ever giving me support in my composing, listening to rough drafts on the computer, and giving good feedback and encouragement. She was a beautiful spirit and I will always miss her!"

Mary Lou believed in saying heartfelt goodbyes. She even wrote a poem in 1988 entitled "Saying Goodbye" and later, in 2012, made a consort setting of it to commemorate the death of a dear friend. The text speaks of the frailty of life: "I never know if I'll get to tell you goodbye tomorrow. So I tell you goodbye today..."

"Goodbye, Mary Lou"

Special thanks to Angela Cook, Bobby Golibart, Richard Kingston, Stephen Lancaster, Christopher Maurer, Theresa McDonald, Elizabeth Ross, Regina Simchowicz, Alan Yamamoto, and the CPCC Music Faculty.

MARY LOU PASCHAL CELEBRATORY CONCERT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH AT 2:30PM
AT THE HALTON THEATER

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



Mary Lou Paschal Celebratory Concert

Sunday, August 27, 2017 at 2:30 P.M. in the Halton Theater, Central Piedmont Community College

Introduction and Opening Remarks:

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Rompelietier

Tango in Nomine

Fantasia Quinta

It's Only a Paper Moon

Scaramella

Was mein Gott will, das g'scheh allzeit

Sara Spencer

Martha Bishop (1937-)

Anon 15th c.

Martha Bishop

Adriano Banchieri (1568-1634)

Harold Arlen arr. Moore

Josquin des Pres (1450-1521)

Adam Gumpelzhaimer (1559-1625)

The CPCC Early Music Consort

Don Boekelheide, Susan Burns, Matthew Files, Gregg Hill, Connor Janusz, Brian Lee, Deborah McRae, Susan McRae, Mary Grace Olinick, Sara Spencer, Henry Trexler, Holly Maurer - Director

The CPCC Recorder Ensemble

Art Breitting, Pat Fieno, Deborah McRae, Barbara Kennedy, Regina Simchowicz, Sherry Miller, Theresa McDonald, Sara Spencer - Director

Special Guests Gail Ann Schroeder & Chrissy Spencer

Mary Lou founded both the CPCC Early Music Consort and the Recorder Ensemble in the 1970's and directed both until her retirement. She then played in the Consort and taught the Recorder Ensemble with Sara Spencer. The Consort pieces performed today were performed last spring with Mary Lou playing the treble viol. She was scheduled to conduct at the Recorder Ensemble concert.

Ballet and Cortege from Petite Suite

Beverly Russell, Darin Kennedy

"Happy", Mary Lou's beloved poodle, accompanied her in the opera "The Gypsy Princess". To co-ordinate with Mary Lou's regal attire, she had Happy's toenails painted red for the occasion. (Beverly Russell)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Plainte from Pieces de Viole, Livre 3me

Gail Schroeder, Webb Wiggins, Holly Maurer

Mary Lou fell in love with the viola da gamba while attending an early music workshop. She asked her friend Martha Bishop how she could play with others. Martha advised her to buy a chest of viols with the goal of putting them into the hands of other players. She loaned her instruments freely, creating new generations of viol players.

Marin Marais (1656-1728)

Abegg Variations, op. 1

Roxanne Holt-Watson

"I played this piece in a recital in 2010. Mary Lou attended the concert and asked me to play this piece just for her. With both of our busy schedules it never happened, so here's my opportunity to play it for her." (Roxanne Holt-Watson)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Sonata in F major: Larghetto, Allegro, Siciliana, Allegro

Carolina Pro Musica: Edward Ferrell, Karen Hite Jacob, Holly Maurer

This was Eddie's first recorder piece which he played in Mary Lou's class at CPCC. Not only did she support beginners, but she attended many concerts of early music here in Charlotte and was a fixture in the front row of Carolina Pro Musica concerts.

Georg F. Handel (1658-1759)

Three Folk Songs: *Grandfather's Clock, Sweet Betsy from Pike, The Old Gray Mare*

Arranged by Mary Lou Paschal

Karen Hudson-Brown, Roxanne Holt-Watson

The Melodica is the last instrument Mary Lou learned to play. She was very intrigued with how expressive a keyboard could be when powered by the breath. These songs are her arrangements of "Favorite American Folk Songs for Flute and Piano" from her last CD.

D'amor sull'ali rosee from Il Trovatore

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Rebecca Cook-Carter, Roxanne Holt-Watson

"Mary Lou loved to accompany and she and I worked together on preparing this piece shortly after I joined the faculty at CPCC." (Becky Cook-Carter)

INTERMISSION

Three Christmas Carols: *Le Sommeil de l'enfant, T'was in the moon of wintertime, Como busca el tierno infante*

Arranged by Paschal

The Harp Ensemble: Kristin Andes, Jane Cooper, Janet Hince, Betsey Sesler
Director, Christine Leimer Van Arsdale

"Mary Lou was a beloved member of our CPCC Folk Harp Ensemble for many years. She was so supportive and encouraging of every member of the group, and she kept me on my toes as well (!) giving me thoughtful -- sometimes very direct -- feedback and encouragement. I consider it a privilege that such a remarkable teacher was a part of my life." (Christine Leimer Van Arsdale)

Trio Sonata in a minor, op.37#5

Josef de Boismortier (1689-1755)

Deborah McRae, Holly Maurer, Matthew Files, Steven Hilton

"Mary Lou was a charter member of the Baroque Ensemble at CPCC and played both viola da gamba and harpsichord. We will all remember her encouragement, her enthusiasm, and her love of rehearsing - "Let's play it one more time!"

Wayfaring Stranger

Traditional

Dawn Anthony, Craig Bove

"I have been in the music department at CPCC since 1998 because of Mary Lou Paschal. You now know who's to blame." (Craig Bove)

Prelude and Fugue BWV 998

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Webb Wiggins

"As a CPCC faculty member early on, Mary Lou invited me to play bass recorder in the new consort. It didn't last long; they kicked me out because I was constantly laughing and couldn't get a sound out. But she did offer much encouragement to me regarding harpsichord, especially after CPCC acquired a new Kingston instrument." (Webb Wiggins)

Musings by Hanna, My Funny Valentine

Hanna/Rodgers

Bill Hanna, David Anthony

"I first met Mary Lou when I was in the choir at Myers Park Baptist Church. That year, together with another choir, we performed Brahms's "Requiem". Mary Lou was a darn good organist!" (Bill Hanna)

Sandman Appears and Evening Prayer from Hansel and Gretel

Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921)

CPCC Opera Theater: Kristine Reynolds, Carly Huntley, Christina Pereira

Mary Lou and Becky Cook-Carter had a dream to bring opera productions to CPCC. They made it happen.