



## Howard W. Mehler

August 18, 1958 - September 21, 2013

Age 55, passed away on Saturday, September 21, 2013 at the Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, MI. He was born on August 18, 1958 in Detroit, MI, the son of Ralph Wesley and Irene Barbara (Papp) Mehler. On December 4, 1987 at the First Congregational Church in Wayne, MI, he married Marie Halberstadt and she survives. Howard graduated from Saline High School class of 1976. He went on to receive his B.M.E from Eastern Michigan University in 1982, his M.A. from Eastern in 1987, and his D.M.A. from the University of Michigan in 1997. Also during that time Howard was a music and math teacher in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and had been since 1985. Other survivors in addition to his wife include his mother Irene Mehler, mother and father-in-law Ray and Irene Halberstadt, brother David (Lori) Mehler, sister Barbara (William) Hammons, brother-in-laws Mark (Tracey) Halberstadt, and Frank Halberstadt, and sister-in-law Ruth Halberstadt. He was preceded in death by his father Ralph Wesley Mehler. A Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 4:00 P.M. at the First Congregational Church in Wayne, MI, with Rev. John Lohmann and Rev. Lance Ness officiating. A public graveside service will take place on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 11:00 A.M. at the Macon Township Cemetery on Mills-Macon Road, with Rev. Lance Ness officiating. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Macon United Methodist Church Music Fund. Envelopes will be available at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline, MI where friends may begin calling on Tuesday, September 24, 2013

from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. and at the First Congregational Church in Wayne, MI, on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 from 3:00 P.M. until the time of the service at 4:00 P.M. To sign Howard's guestbook, to leave a memory, or for more information or directions please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Macon Township Cemetery

Mills-Macon Hwy  
Clinton, MI 49236

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **24.** 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

## Graveside Service

SEP **25.** 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Macon Township Cemetery  
Mills-Macon Hwy  
Clinton, MI 49236

## Visitation

SEP **25.** 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Wayne  
2 Towne Square St.  
Wayne, MI 48184  
[http://www.fccow.org/?](http://www.fccow.org/)

## Memorial Service

SEP **25.** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Wayne  
2 Towne Square St.  
Wayne, MI 48184  
[http://www.fccow.org/?](http://www.fccow.org/)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Howard W. Mehler*

---

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Kathy Winchell lit a candle in memory of Howard W. Mehler*



---

**Kathy Winchell** - April 08, 2014 at 11:42 AM



“ *I'm very saddened to hear of Howard's passing. I was in MIY's studio with Howard during under grad years at EMU. Howard was such a delight. He worked hard and was a excellent musician. We lost touch but, I won't forget what a nice friend Howard was to me and others at EMU. My sypathies to Marie and Howard's family. RIP*  
*Sincerely,*  
*Kathy Winchell*

---

**Kathy Winchell** - April 08, 2014 at 11:42 AM



“ Marie,  
*You and Dr. Mehler were such a huge part of my and my sisters life. My fondest memory was when I sang castle on a cloud, my last year in middle school at franklin MS and you invited him to come listen to me. The following year, I was VD. Words cannot express how much you both did for me. So many years later, the impact is still the same. My heart goes out to you and the family.*

*Sincerely,  
Lauren Sands*

*And on behalf of my sister Kristin May*

---

**Lauren Sands Norris** - December 16, 2013 at 02:30 PM

JR

“ Dear Marie,  
*Lee and I were so sorry to hear about the passing of Howard. He was such a really good person and so giving of himself. He carried our wedding rings 47 years ago as our ring bearer....he did such a lovely job and looked so cute.....what a beautiful memory for us. He continued his life helping others in so many ways.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you. He will be truly missed!!  
Love,  
Judy Riley and family*

---

**Judy Riley** - October 01, 2013 at 11:44 AM

ML

“ I was in Biology Club with Howard in high school. We were friends then, but lost touch and I never knew what a talented teacher and musician he was. While I am sad to know I will never see him again, it is good to read the comments here and learn how many lives he touched.

---

**Margaret Lirones** - September 29, 2013 at 11:47 PM



“ You Never Know <http://considerthestars.com/?p=636>

---

**John Lindsay** - September 29, 2013 at 11:35 PM

DP

“ My thoughts are with you this day and everyday I teach students. Though we haven't seen each other in a very long time, I hold memories of our youth fondly. Journey well!!!

---

**don prichard** - September 28, 2013 at 07:51 AM

VK

“ Its hard to think that Mr. Mehler is gone but he will never be forgotten. For me Mr. Mehler is the best music teacher anyone had he was there to help you get better not to hurt you or make you feel bad. Mr. Mehler will always be the music teacher that inspired to do better with my singing then to stay quite. So I thank him for the help he has to me.

---

**Vivian Kennedy** - September 27, 2013 at 07:45 AM

AN

“ *My heart breaks for the students who will never get to experience Mr. Mehler as their teacher. He always had an open, non-judgmental ear and really supported my brother and I when our family was going through some difficult times. My time in Concert Choir and the Vocal Dimension are some of my best memories from Wayne Memorial. He will be missed. - Antoinette (Gilbert) Porter*

---

**Antoinette** - September 25, 2013 at 01:09 PM

RR

“ *I have always admired how Howard has grown up in a family of strong faith, and dedicated to a ministry and music filled the hearts of many. His parents, Ralph and Irene were part of the scarlet thread that held the faith community in Macon together. Ralph displayed the same character of Godliness, taking care of his wife, Howard's mother Irene, after a long-time injury plagued her health.*

*Howard's ministry practiced showed he was totally dedicated, doing whatever it took to serve God and Jesus Christ to the fullest. There was no looking back to determine the return on investment in a worldly sense. There was only a rejoicing over a bumper crop of investments made in God's heavenly kingdom. Howard is one of those persons who will leave a huge hole in all the communities he and Marie generously shared their talents in. I pray that God rest his soul and help Marie to be in God's peace knowing that there is a place made in heaven for him by the Lord.*

*Rev. Gregory Rowe, former pastor of Macon and Wayne First UMCs.*

---

**Rev. Gregory Rowe** - September 25, 2013 at 12:10 PM

MM

“ Howard was a wonderful person who was taken from us much too soon. He touched so many people with his music, his character, and his caring.

*Those were wonderful years when we all studied together in Mary Ida's studio.*

*I wish that I could be with you at the service, but I live in California. I will be with you in spirit and prayer.*

*To Marie, Dan, Irene and all the family - blessings, love and prayers are with you. Be in God's peace.*

*Martha Mueller, M.A., Eastern Michigan University, 1983-1986*

---


**martha mueller** - September 25, 2013 at 06:27 AM

MM

“ Dear Family of Howard, I was saddened to learn of Howard's sudden death but I am glad he did not have to suffer. He was a wonderful companion to Marie, and a splendid musician. He was a fine student of mine and a conscientious worker. We must remember that "Those we Love die only if we forget them." All condolences to Marie and Family. Marilyn Mason

---

**Marilyn Mason** - September 24, 2013 at 08:34 PM

  
Jennifer  
Dodds

“ I remember Mr. Mehler teaching the youth choir at my church, which was the best reason to go to church... and then later all through various choirs I was part of in high school. Its sad he's gone at such a young age. His memory lives on in the music in the hearts of those he's touched.

---

**Jennifer Dodds** - September 24, 2013 at 01:10 PM

MM

“ I want to thank all of you for all the comments. This is a very hard time for all of us but it nice to know that he has touched so many lives. I am Howard's Niece and my Uncle was an amazing person who I will miss dearly. It was so moving to read all of the comments by his fellow students. Thank you for sharing these this means the world to us.

---

**Michelle Mehler** - September 24, 2013 at 12:06 PM

ED

“ I have fond memories of Howard from my time at EMU, and I was so pleased to see him at the recent Madrigals reunion. My condolences to all his family and friends. We will miss Howard very much.

*Ellen Duncan*

---

**Ellen Duncan** - September 24, 2013 at 11:54 AM

DJ

“ I was shocked and totally grief stricken to hear of Howard's passing. It was too soon for an amazing man that had much more to give. Howard started out as my sons' choir teacher and became a close personal friend. My sons, Nic and Justin Girouard would not be the men they are today without Howard. He guided their musical life from 8th grade through college where they both got degrees in music business and voice. He discovered Nic in 6th grade and sent us to the Ann Arbor Boys Choir so Nic didn't have to wait for 8th grade choir to start to develop his voice. He helped me guide their personal life as friend, mentor, and father. Howard spent countless hours with my sons after school picking out audition songs and perfecting their performance for solo and ensemble, auditions for choirs, auditions for Interlochen, and auditions for college. Every concert, play, or event they were in, Howard and Marie were there. Howard just attended Nic's wedding in July. Howard was truly a part of our family. Our whole family is devastated. God bless you Howard

---

Debra Joy - September 24, 2013 at 11:04 AM

CK

“ to Marie & Howard's family: Our sadness and sense of loss can't compare to yours, but we grieve with you. It's much too soon for us to lose such a great guy. His high standards and advanced skills didn't get in the way of making music with people of all ages and backgrounds. Everyone benefited from his knowledge and love of music! I have fond memories of working with him while we were at Eastern and at performances at First Congregational Church --- challenges were always handled with laughter and a light heart. It's hard for me to believe that such a wonderful man is gone. He had many years of doing what he loved but he deserved many, many more. God bless you.

---

Cathy Krenek - September 24, 2013 at 10:45 AM

JL

“ At the end of my 7th grade year, this gracious man wrote to me: "Joshua - I am so proud of how far you have come as a musician but even more so as a person. BRAVO!" He taught me that being a good person is the most pivotal thing in life. Bless his soul and may his music making and teaching ring in our hearts forever -  
Josh Lowe, WMHS Class of 2010

Josh Lowe - September 24, 2013 at 09:11 AM

K'

“ Kyle Zrenchik Class of '03 purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Howard W. Mehler.



Kyle Zrenchik Class of '03 - September 24, 2013 at 09:00 AM

BM

“ Sorry to hear about mr mehler death it was shocking he was a great choir teacher my nephew Michael and Felicia Mcbee sing in his class we are sorry that he pass may he r..l.p I met mr mehler when Michael or Felicia would have a concert at school. Now he can teacher choir in heaven from the Mcbee family John. Michael Becky lil john and Felicia .



becky mcbee - September 24, 2013 at 08:09 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Howard W. Mehler.*



---

September 23, 2013 at 10:23 PM



“ *My son James goes to Elliott and he was music teacher there, my prayers to his family.*

---

**Kellie Kuras** - September 23, 2013 at 07:47 PM



“ *Rest in Peace to a great teacher and a wonderful person. From 8th grade until I graduated, Howard Mehler was my choir teacher. More than that, he was a good friend and someone I could look to for comfort and as a safe ear to confide in, being the awkward outcast I was in high school. I had recently thought that I would send him a letter expressing how much of an impact he had on me as a teenager, and how fondly I still think of him. Unfortunately, that letter did not come to fruition in time. I had not seen him in years, but I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing. I will have to make sure I send a letter to his wife to express my sentiments.*

---

**Jeffery Anderson** - September 23, 2013 at 07:28 PM



“ Not just a teacher, Dr.Mehler was a kindhearted, compassionate person who cared for his students like they were his own children. I had the honor of having Dr.Mehler as a teacher from 96-98, in Women's Ensemble, Vocal Dimensions, and as the music director in two musicals at Wayne Memorial High School. Dr. Mahler was unfailingly compassionate and kind to his students, pushed us to strive for our best, and always had a moment to listen. He is one of my favorite high school memories, and will be so very missed.

---

**Sarah Hunsaker (Slaughter)** - September 23, 2013 at 05:53 PM



“ Howard was such a wonderful man. I can't believe this has happened. We all just enjoyed singing with Howard at the recent madrigal reunion at EMU. He was so kind and selfless. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you Marie and all of Howard's family. He will be missed greatly. Debra Brousseau, music teacher and EMU graduate.

---

**Debra Brousseau** - September 23, 2013 at 05:23 PM



“ I had Mr. M from 7th-12th gr every year. Even 2 hrs a day in my Senior yr. He put up w a lot! Lol. He was a kind gentle soul & Im very sorry for your loss. Your family will be in my prayers! Xo

---

**Zelle Thatcher** - September 23, 2013 at 04:27 PM



“ It hurts my heart to hear that the world lost a amazing person. I graduated in 2001 from wayne memorial high school and the entire 4 years i was there i had him as a teacher and mentor. He was one of the best teachers and friends i ever had. He helped me through a lot of hard times. The world will miss this amazing man but he has a higher purpose that he couldn't fulfill in this life. You will be missed greatly by many people. And to Dr. Mehler's family i just want to say I know you all are grieving but know that he was a extraordinary man and an amazing music teacher. He will live on with all of his students and people that he has touched in this life. I know that his music will live on through me as well. Stay strong and know that he was an amazing man and did so much good in his life.



---

**Patricia Zakar** - September 23, 2013 at 04:05 PM



“ Mr. Mehler was one of my favorite teachers, he was so willing to spend time and help his students when they were struggling whether it was in class or in their personal lives.

---

**Cindy Dietrich** - September 23, 2013 at 03:46 PM



“ He was my favorite teacher and i had the pleasure of knowing him and his wife from middle school through high school. I remember a time after i graduated Wayne High where some of the alumni choir members came back and surprised him at a concert and we thought he was going to faint when he saw us on the stage. He didn't but it was a great surprise and i enjoyed doing it. He was a great teacher and he will be truly missed.  
My condolences to his family

---

**Carla Catherine** - September 23, 2013 at 03:20 PM

CJ

“ HE was one of the most inspired teachers. He was there for everyone of his students. He was the one that inspired me in high school to be something great in life. I know that he has inspired so many and touched and changed so many childrens lives. HE was an amazing man and one that I will remember the rest of my life. I have been blessed to have known him. I know that he is in a much better place and will still be guiding so many because he is in the hearts of many. Thank you Mehler for everything that you have taught me. You are loved and treasured by many.

*I am forever grateful for all the passion and love he has shown me and many other students. I dont think I would be the same individual had he not been such an impactful and inspirational teacher. His class was an escape from everything. HE was a teacher a counselor and friend. You will never be forgotten. I will forever hold the lessons you have taught me very close to my heart.*

*May you rest peacefully and continue to inspire from up above.*

*Cheryce Johnson*

*Student and Teacher Assistant, Vocal Dimension 2000-2004*

---

**cheryce johnson** - September 23, 2013 at 01:00 PM

JW

“ I'm sorry we can't be with you. I remember Howard and Marie when they were both meeting each other, both at EMU and with Dr. Mason. Dr. Yost has been such a help to let us all know about Howard, and she has been a strong tree for all of us, I know, and for Howard and Marie. Joy Schroeder

---

**Joy Schroeder Steve Wasilewski** - September 23, 2013 at 12:35 PM

J(

“ I never had a teacher like Mr. Mehler. He was the best and meant so much to me. If it was not for him I would not have graduated high school. He was always there to listen to me no matter what was going on. He will be missed by so many of his students. R.I.P. to the greatest teacher of music and to someone that was a father to all of us.



---

**Jennier Tachar (Kibbee)** - September 23, 2013 at 12:00 PM

 April  
Hall  
Henley

“ I do not have the words to express just how much Howard will be missed. I was a student of his for a couple years at Jefferson Elementary and then again at Wayne Memorial when he first started there for the 93-94 and the 94-95 school years. I remember him fondly as the choir director at First Congregational Church in Wayne when I started attending there in high school and singing in his and Marie's doctoral concert at the church. With him playing the organ when I married in the church and his assistance over the years with various solo pieces when I had difficulty choosing what to sing, I will always remember his love and support for his students, even after we graduated and moved on. He was a selfless, kind, and wonderful teacher and a talented musician. I used to joke that he reminded me of the absent minded professor at times in terms of his music organization, but he would do anything he needed to be there for his students even if that meant other duties needed to be set aside. I fondly remember how nervous he would get for us when we would have concerts and solo en ensemble, and how he would rejoice with us for a job well done. He will leave a lasting legacy of his love of music in those students he touched, we will never forget him. My prayers go out to Marie and his family during this time.

*Rest In Peace Howard, we all love you and will miss you dearly.*

*April (Hall) Henley  
Wayne Memorial Class of 95'*

---

**April Hall Henley** - September 23, 2013 at 10:56 AM



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



Jeff Burden - September 23, 2013 at 10:29 AM



“ He was my favorite teacher, he supported me through out high school and was always there if I needed to talk. Heaven gained an amazing angel. I will forever be grateful for all his support and love for music. He allowed me to enjoy music and support me even though I was different.

Jennifer Consitt - September 23, 2013 at 05:42 AM



“ 7 files added to the album *New Album Name*



John Blair - September 23, 2013 at 02:51 AM

EP

“ I was a student of Dr. Mehler's until 2004 and everyday I am grateful for having him as my teacher. He was always there for me and anyone who wanted extra practice or just wanted to talk. He was so good at listening. He really helped me during my time as his student, whether it was academic or if I just needed a shoulder to cry on. He was the support I needed when I was having issues at home and when I came out. He never waivered and was always there to give me the help I needed. He would even bring grape juice to the class because he knew that I didn't have any food to eat. He trusted me, and knew how much potential I had, and to this day I haven't forgotten how much I owe to Howard. Without him, I wouldn't be here today. Every time I feel hopeless, I just think of Howard, how much he pushed me when I needed it most, and I think to myself "I cannot let him down". I'm still fighting, and I will always remember him and all the wisdom he has given me, and I promise that I will not let him down.

Howard was a truly amazing teacher, and ultimately, a friend. I am devastated by the loss and I pray that he is in a better place, because he damn well better be. I am proud to have been one of his many students and he will forever be my mentor. Rest in peace, doctor. I miss you and love you and will never forget you.

*Eric D. Penrose*

*Student, the Vocal Dimension 2000-2004*

---

**Eric Penrose** - September 22, 2013 at 10:56 PM



Jeffery  
Anderso

I have an entry posted above. In looking at many of the entries here, I am comforted and not surprised to see how similar many of the remembrances from former students are. Thank you for sharing what you did because it really summed up his impact on so many of us very well. I hadn't seen him in many years, but I am heatbroken by his loss as if I had just graduated yesterday. This is one of the better effects of the internet age -- people can be far away but be able to share in their common experiences even if they cannot in person.

---

**Jeffery Anderson** - September 23, 2013 at 09:52 PM

SE

“ I still remember the song you taught my class.. Oh senior dongato was a cat! On a high red roof dongato sat! I'll never forget that song, or you. rip. <3

---

**Sarah eaton** - September 22, 2013 at 09:43 PM

HH

*I was his student from 2003-2005. He was one of the most caring instructors I have ever had. When I seen this I was in absolute shock and disbelief. You will be greatly missed by many. We love you and miss you. May you rest in peace!*

*Heather Haley  
Womens Chorus 2003-2005*

---

**Heather Haley** - September 23, 2013 at 02:48 PM