



## Joel R. Hastings

July 22, 1969 - May 26, 2016

Joel Ross Hastings, 46, was taken suddenly to be with the Lord on May 26, 2016. He was born July 22, 1969, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and was married to Charise (Harrison). An Ontario resident, he spent his childhood in North Bay and Windsor. He earned degrees in organ (BM) and piano (MM, DMA) from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. At the time of his death, he was on the piano faculty at Florida State University in Tallahassee. He performed in venues across North America and Europe and made a number of recordings. Previously, he played the organ at churches in the Windsor and Detroit areas, and was the organist at First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor for eleven years. His intuitive nature--the ability to perceive people beyond the surface--touched many around him. The same spirit guided his approach to music at every level, from recital programming to phrase shaping. Despite his numerous accomplishments, he was dedicated to improving as a man, musician, and teacher through the guidance of his Christian faith. He is survived by his wife, his parents John and Sharon (Stewart) Hastings, his brother Ian (Meaghan) Hastings, his nephew Joseph Henry Hastings, and his niece Willa Grace Hastings. Visitation will take place on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. for family, and 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. for friends, at the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor (517 E. Washington Street). A memorial service will be held at the same location on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 11:00 A.M., followed by a light lunch reception. Visitation will also take place at the Church from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at 11:00 A.M. An

additional memorial service will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 4:00 P.M. at St. Peter's Anglican Church, 4784 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32309. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Compassion International by website <http://www.compassion.com/donate/joel-hastings.htm> or by envelopes available at the church.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor  
517 East Washington Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
<http://www.fbca2.org/>

## Visitation

JUN 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor  
517 East Washington Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
<http://www.fbca2.org/>

## Funeral Service

JUN 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor  
517 East Washington Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
<http://www.fbca2.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joel R. Hastings*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Joel was one of the FINEST pianists I have known. I was dumbfounded upon learning of his passing. I was at EVERY concert he performed in London, ON. He was like a true friend to me. We here, in London will miss him, dearly. RIP, Joel. Your London Fans....*

*(Dennis Meechan)*

Dennis Meechan - September 29, 2016 at 08:04 PM



“ *Joel was one of my best friends in Grade 8 at Lucien Beaudoin. I remember sharing our Christian faith together and occasionally going to his house after school and hearing him practice organ. He also gave our family invaluable advice (through Facebook) when deciding which post-secondary school my son Sam should attend for piano.*

*Even though our paths never again crossed physically after the age of 14, I would always hear murmurings about his accomplishments and how well regarded he was as a musician. For some reason I expected to one day have coffee with him and catch up, maybe find out if he still really liked eating oranges.*

*He will be missed by many, including his brother Ian who I had the pleasure of playing with musically in my college years. My heart goes out to his whole family and the legions of fans and friends he accumulated over the years.*

John Benn - June 05, 2016 at 04:01 PM

KE

“ I just found out about Joel's passing today and I'm very saddened for his family. I remember hanging out with him in the late 80's. I knew he played the pipe organ but I didn't realize how amazing he was until he invited me to All Saints church in Windsor to hear him play. It was then that my jaw hit the floor in amazement. Flash forward 2 decades and I found him on youtube. Incredible. My condolences to the Hastings family.  
Kelly Hills

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**kelly** - June 04, 2016 at 11:39 PM

PL

“ To the Hastings, I have fond memories of living next door to you on South Riverview, such a lovely family with two very creatively talented sons. I can't imagine the loss you are feeling. To Charise, I have never met you but I know what it is like to have the love of your life taken to soon. My heart goes out to you. With inner strength that you will be surprised you have, faith in God and the love of family and friends you will be able to continue on without Joel. My prayers and best to all of you. Paula Lofthouse-Aldi

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**Paula Lofthouse-Aldi** - June 02, 2016 at 05:44 PM

RJ

“ We are so sorry to hear of Joel's passing. What a delight it was to meet him at my church in Sault Ste. Marie when he was entering high school, to the last time I heard him play--6 years ago at a retirement recital for our teacher David Palmer in Windsor. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Bob & Lynn Jones  
Chesterville (near Ottawa), Ontario*

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**Robert & Lynn Jones** - June 01, 2016 at 09:58 PM

MW

“ My memory of Joel and the last time I saw him was at a West family event in Sault Ste Marie, ON. I can't remember what the occasion was , it may have been the wedding of David West. Joel played the piano and I remember "hanging out with him" and chatting to him about all kinds of things. I remember thinking how kind he was, friendly and personable. I never saw him again, and now he has passed on so early in life. My sympathy goes out to the family. Interestingly, I am now married into a family who also knows the Hastings family and Joel, the Robert Wylie family of Windsor, ON. Dave and I are married 15 years now. The Wylie's also remember Joel from the years you spent in Windsor. May God comfort you at this time.

*With love, Melanie Wylie (West) Hugh Wests second daughter.*

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**melanie wylie** - June 01, 2016 at 08:39 PM



“ *Quiet Expressions was purchased for the family of Joel R. Hastings.*



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June 01, 2016 at 02:56 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Joel R. Hastings.*



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June 01, 2016 at 10:04 AM

DM

“ Our thoughts will be with you today as you say your farewells to Joel. It is only until we meet again in our Fathers Heavenly home. Joel will be missed by so many but his memory will carry on through his music. We have enjoyed his CD's which we have in our music library. We last heard Joel play at our cousins (John Hastings) birthday party in Toronto. We feel the loss and our condolences go out to Charise, John and Sharon and Ian. All our love in Christ from cousins David and Mary Ann McClelland, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

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**David McClelland** - June 01, 2016 at 10:01 AM

LH

Thinking of you on this sad day as you say goodbye to Joel. May you be comforted in knowing you will see him again. Think of him rejoicing in heaven with the Lord. Joel was loved and highly esteemed by friends around the world for his music which will continue to live on. Our heart aches for Charise, John, Sharon, Ian and Meaghan. May the Lord comfort you. With deepest sympathy and much love from cousins Lois West Hardie and Dave.

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**Lois and Dave Hardie** - June 02, 2016 at 09:29 AM

UF

“ University of Florida Piano Faculty purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Joel R. Hastings.



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**University of Florida Piano Faculty** - June 01, 2016 at 08:53 AM

WL

“ *Charise, Aunt Sharon & Uncle John, and family,  
We are so, so sorry for your loss. There are no words to express the  
depth of sorrow you each must be feeling. It is hard to grasp that  
Joel is home in heaven. We are praying that our Heavenly Father  
will put His arms around you and remind you He is there with you.  
We regret we are unable to travel due to Wanda's recent foot  
surgery but will be there in spirit. Much love and our prayers. Wanda  
& Ted*

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**Wanda Lindsay** - May 31, 2016 at 11:12 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family  
of Joel R. Hastings.*



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May 31, 2016 at 09:58 PM

SR

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



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**Stephen Robison** - May 31, 2016 at 08:57 PM

MW

*Absolutely fantastic!*

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**melanie wylie** - June 01, 2016 at 08:48 PM

WH

“ He was a great musician and a lovely human being. His rendition of Chopin's Etude in C Major, Op.10, No.1 is unsurpassed in MUSICALITY.

*Waleed Howrani*

Waleed Howrani - May 31, 2016 at 07:47 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joel R. Hastings.



May 31, 2016 at 06:30 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Joel R. Hastings.



May 31, 2016 at 12:03 PM

KB

“ Joel was a delightful person and fine musician. It was my privilege to work with him and to benefit from his insight and perception during the Hong Kong Schools Competition in 2015. My sympathy and warmest condolences go to his wife and family. Keith Beniston (London)

Keith Beniston - May 31, 2016 at 01:09 AM



“ *Organic Sympathy Crate was purchased for the family of Joel R. Hastings.*



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May 30, 2016 at 11:11 PM



“ *Joel was a fellow organ major classmate of our son Charles Kennedy and we met him several times over the years when we visited Charles in Ann Arbor. He and Charles have remained great friends since that time. We send our deepest sympathy to Charise and Joel's family in this time of great sorrow and pray for God's closeness as you walk your journey of grief. - Bill and Virginia Kennedy, Jonesborough, Tennessee*

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**Bill and Virginia Kennedy** - May 30, 2016 at 10:10 PM



“ *Misha Quint and Caitlin McConnell purchased the Adoring Heart for the family of Joel R. Hastings.*



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**Misha Quint and Caitlin McConnell** - May 30, 2016 at 09:39 PM

DW

“ Joel's music lingers in the halls of Eastern Michigan University. And I know it's also in the hearts of his family and friends. Everywhere this weekend Ann Arbor's musical community was commemorating Joel's life. A presence. A light. An incomparable beauty. Privileged to have shared his world, which is a better place due to the sharing of his spirit and art.

Diane Winder - May 30, 2016 at 09:05 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joel R. Hastings.



May 30, 2016 at 07:48 PM

KF

“ I remember listening to him practice the piano at the Adams' house while he was getting ready for his Van Cliburn competition. Jerry and Cynthia had set up a few chairs and we went over to listen to his concert. Joel was a master. Amanda was very young, and she was mesmerized by his talent, as were we. I always enjoyed it when Joel was getting ready for a concert in the area and he would practice next door. We would see him arrive and make sure the windows were open to hear the incredible music coming from the house next door. The holiday parties were always special. Amanda was always so excited to talk to him about her research, and he was just as excited to learn about it. Joel was a wonderful person, and we are lucky that we could call him our friend. Our thoughts are with his family.

Merrill, Kari and Amanda Falk

Kari Falk - May 30, 2016 at 07:00 PM

TF

“ *The Reed Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joel R. Hastings.*



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**The Reed Family** - May 30, 2016 at 05:47 PM

YW

“ *YINGYING WANG purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joel R. Hastings.*



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**YINGYING WANG** - May 30, 2016 at 03:23 PM

AC

“ *Joel, I loved you like a brother. You were a wonderful friend and colleague. I was your number one fan and will cherish the memories of traveling throughout Ontario and Quebec with you and Charise as your "tour manager". I have been listening to all your recordings and it gives me great joy and happiness. Rest in peace!*

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**Alde Calongcagong** - May 30, 2016 at 01:35 PM

DH

“ *I had the real pleasure of meeting Joel at the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival in 2015. I found him to be a real gentleman, with a warm and caring heart, as well as a fabulous sense of humour. Joel and I were only messaging until recently. He was an inspirational musician, both as a teacher and performer, and the piano world has just lost one of its stars. My sincere and heartfelt condolences to Charise and the family. Rest in Peace, Joel Hastings.*

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**David Hobourn** - May 30, 2016 at 12:38 PM