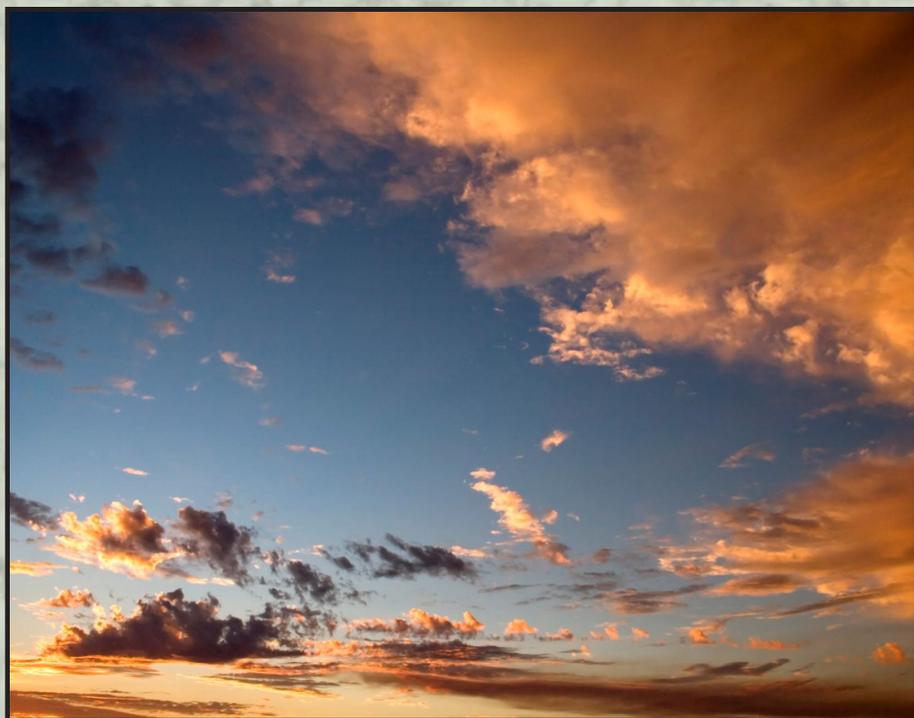




DR. MYRON MOSS

DR. MYRON MOSS





In loving memory of a wonderful person. We will love you and miss you always.







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DR. MYRON MOSS



DR. MYRON MOSS

MOSS

DR. MYRON D., beloved music program director and Associate Professor at Drexel University, passed away suddenly July 2, 2012 after suffering a massive heart attack. Mike was a master teacher and a talented orchestra and band conductor. He was a gentle, charming, kind man who touched the lives of many students and colleagues. As a scholar, Mike was nationally known for his work on African-American composers, specifically related to band repertoire.

Before coming to Drexel, he was music department chair and director of bands at Southern Connecticut State University. He was an invited guest conductor at Yale, the Hartt School, and the University of Michigan. Mike conducted the Keystone Winds' CD "Out of the Depths" devoted to works by Black composers. His University of Michigan Ph.D. dissertation, "Concert Band Music by African-American Composers, 1927-1998," won the Fritz Thelen Award for the best doctoral dissertation worldwide on a concert band music subject written between 1999 and 2005. His band arrangement of Gabriel Faur's Chant Funraire was recorded by the University of North Texas Wind Ensemble on a 2006 GIA release and has been played by elite groups across the country. Earlier this year Mike conducted an outstanding performance at the Kimmel Center of the Drexel Concert Band playing music by African-American composers.

Mike is survived by his parents, Sonya Kleider and Robert I. Moss, and his sister Aleta McClelland and nephews Daniel and Kian. Funeral services will be held privately on Friday. Family will receive visitors and observe Shiva on Sunday, July 8, 5-9 P.M. at the home of Charles and Peggy Morscheck, 610-247-6247.

PLATT MEMORIAL CHAPELS





DR. MYRON MOSS: Memories

July 6, 2012

I knew Mr. Moss as my high school band teacher. He was kind, talented and so patient and encouraging. A great influence on all of his students. He will be dearly missed.

Rebekah Sitty (San Francisco, CA)

July 6, 2012

My heartfelt condolences to Dr. Moss' family. I knew him as Mr. Moss when he was our band director at Ledyard High School in CT. I know he made a lot of us better musicians, and I loved the time I spent in that music program. The last time I saw him he was jogging in New Haven and he looked happy and healthy. I'm so glad that I pulled my car over and took the time to speak to him. Please take comfort in knowing how many lives he touched.

Kathy Dunn (Ledyard, CT)

July 6, 2012

Dr. Moss (as Mr. Moss) was a huge inspiration to me at Ledyard High School. I teach university-level piano and music theory as a result of his 1984-85 music theory class at LHS. I miss his insights, his wit, his care for students. My condolences go out to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Paul Rumrill (Forest, VA)

July 6, 2012

I knew Mr. Moss as the band director at Ledyard High School. What a nice man. And what an incredible journey he had after his years at LHS! I am so sorry for your loss.

--Stephanie Munro Carmel, Class of '85

Stephanie Carmel (Marlborough, MA)

July 6, 2012

Mike was one of my influences at Ledyard High School that inspired my career as a teacher. He took the extra time to get to know his kids, and he really cared not only





that we could perform, but that we truly understood and loved music. Like others, I still think about his opinion when I perform, even though my music now is vastly different from high school band. God bless him. And may He bless you also, during this difficult time. Mike will be missed.

Elizabeth Seaton Dickerson (Lebanon, CT)

July 6, 2012

The world will definitely miss such a very amazing person and teacher. Memories of band at Ledyard High School will be forever ingrained in me. Rest in peace, Mr. Moss. You can definitely look down and be proud of the great things you did and all the people you touched during your time in this world.

Michael "Taz" Taskoski (Lisbon, CT)

July 6, 2012

I was Mike's colleague at Southern, and always appreciated his commitment to the school and its students, to music-making, and to the history of African-American music. Those qualities will be missed, as will his personal qualities of gentleness, warmth, good humor, and devotion. A very good man has died young.

Joseph Solodow (Woodbridge, CT)

July 6, 2012

I will always remember how kind he was. If he knew you had an interest in music he would do anything to foster your love of music. He took me to NYC to buy a flute. He will be missed.

Karen Ciccone (Pawcatuck, CT)

July 6, 2012

Myron was a huge influence in my life. I grew more musically with him guiding me than at any other time in my life. I lost track of him after I graduated from Ledyard high school, but it seems like he had a great life. He has never really left my thoughts. When I write music, I often wonder what he would think of it. I am sorry for your loss.

Mark Estes (Malibu, CA)

July 6, 2012





I had the great pleasure of playing under the direction of Mr. Moss while I was a student at Ledyard High School in CT. I also had the honor of calling him my friend.... So sorry to hear of his passing and send my sincerest condolences to his family.

"LET'S GO, MIKE !!!"

Jeff Dutton (Montgomery, AL)

July 6, 2012

This is indeed a sad day for anyone who had the privilege to have known and worked with Dr. Moss. I was not a SCSU student, however I did play in the SCSU Band for several years prior to Dr. Moss's transfer to Drexel; and within those years, Dr. Moss has opened my eyes even further to the wonderful world of music.

I remember Dr. Moss being a man who not only loved music, but his profound passion for teaching and loving personality impacted each and every one of his work colleagues, family, band members, friends, and most of all his students.

Dr. Moss will be missed by us all, and I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that we hope that wherever he is, he is at peace and watching over us.

Most Sincerely

Tullio Milani (North Haven, CT)

July 6, 2012

To the family of Mr. Moss,

The world has lost a great man, but heaven has definitely gained another angel. I had the privilege of having Mr. Moss as not only my band director at Ledyard High School, but also my friend. He was such a kind, caring, compassionate man. I think back to those days quite often with fond memories.

Rest in peace, Mr. Moss.

Sandy Drake Rockett (Ledyard, CT)

July 6, 2012

I will miss hearing Myron's music and working with him on a committee. His gentle soul was appreciated. My sympathy is extended to his friends and family.

Doris Marino (Hamden, CT)





July 6, 2012

Mike was a talented and inspirational leader. He was a compassionate and insightful director. He was loved here at Drexel and will be missed.

Jennifer Atchison (Philadelphia, PA)

July 6, 2012

I first met Mike the year he conducted the Stratford Community Band. We always called that The Golden Year. When he opened up the SCSU Band to the community, I jumped at the chance to work with him again. He was a wonderful, unique person that I am glad to have known.

Dori Stern (Hamden, CT)

July 6, 2012

Mr. Moss was my band teacher for 4 years at Ledyard High School in CT. I will remember him for being patient and passionate about his music.

Paul Fowler (San Diego, CA)

July 6, 2012

to the family of dr.moss;
i am very sorry to have heard about your
loss.i liked him very much.you all will be in
my preyers and thoughts.if you need anything donot hesitate to let me know.
my e-mail address is cohenl2@southernct.edu
lori cohen-new haven,conn
i know mike from fountain street-where
he used to live.
lori cohen (new haven, CT)

July 6, 2012

I am surprised and saddened by the loss of Mike. I can't imagine not seeing that smile and experiencing that quick wit of his. He will be missed by all of his friends and colleagues at SCSU.

Shirley Jackson (CT)





July 6, 2012

Mike was such a wonderful colleague. And a real mensch. We will miss him terribly.
Nan Gilbert (Lansdowne, PA)

July 6, 2012

Mike was a talented musician and scholar. He was also a true gentleman who will be greatly missed by his Drexel colleagues and friends.
Chris Gibson (Philadelphia, PA)

July 6, 2012

Dr. Moss taught us more than music. He taught us how to be a caring friend, an active body within our community and a pillar of support to all around us. His memory will always bring a smile, and the lessons he taught us will be carried throughout our lives. SCSU was lucky to have you as a professor, as we were lucky to have had you as a teacher and friend.
Shawn Ackerman (Naugatuck, CT)

July 6, 2012

What a wonderful man! He was an inspiration and a mentor to so many students. He will be missed.
Milton Jacoby (Fairfield, CT)

July 7, 2012

Mike has been an amazing influence on so many people. I don't think I have ever heard one negative comment about him. He recruited me to play baritone horn at the end of my junior year at Ledyard High School. He came to my house to give me lessons. Playing in marching band was one of the highlights of my high school years. I never would have known that joy had it not been for him. The world lost an amazing presence. RIP dear friend.
Cheryl Freeman (Toledo, OH)

July 7, 2012

It saddens me to know that Mr. Moss has moved on to conduct for the Master in heaven. I have many fond memories of band and the passion Mr. Moss had for





teaching music to young people. He knew they were the future conductors of the world and he wanted to get them off to a good start. I think of him often when I'm "conducting" to the radio. Thanks, Mr. Moss for lighting the fire in so many people.

Linda (Lavallee) Mossberg (Lisbon, CT)

July 7, 2012

I knew Mike at SCSU where I worked in the PR dept. A musical event that I can't recall was what forced the introduction. But long after the event had passed he would visit my office -- always with exuberance and enthusiasm for something going on with a student or a colleague. His passion for music and for teaching has left a tremendous legacy, confirmed by the notes from so many of his students. My deepest sympathies to his family.

Betsy Regan (Branford, CT)

July 7, 2012

Having known Mike since his Ledyard days, I have seen him brave one new challenge after another. In the face of every adversity, Mike displayed an unerring dedication to music and an unwavering sense of integrity. He was a brilliant mind, a fine man and a good friend. He would be most gratified to hear the wonderful things said herein by his former students. We will miss you Mike.

George Sanders (Milford, CT)

July 7, 2012

Mike was one of the most pleasant people I have ever met. He brought so much to so many. Southern Ct State was enriched by his music, his wonderful rapport with students, and his thoughtfulness toward others. I will always remember our enjoyable discussions. Rest in Peace Mike.

Jane Ciarlone (Branford, CT)

July 7, 2012

Dr. Moss was THE teacher in my life who made the biggest impact. It has been 27 years since I graduated from Ledyard High School, and I've never forgotten him. He made me love music, taught me several different instruments that I still play, gave me the opportunity to travel to & perform in Europe and pushed me into leadership roles that I otherwise would have never sought. When he left Ledyard HS to take a





job in New Hampshire, a group of his former students, including me, surprised him by driving from our various colleges all the way up to his new school to hear his first concert. We bought him a boutonniere to wear that night, and sent it backstage with an unsigned note that quoted William Wordsworth.

Remembering a fine teacher and a good man as I recall that quote today: "...The music in my heart I bore, long after it was heard no more..."

Jennifer Corey von Klar (Chattanooga, TN)

July 7, 2012

Along side many others here, Dr. Moss (as Mr. Moss) was my band director at Ledyard High School. He taught me leadership skills that I carry with me to this day and continue to use. My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and students.

Brett Rabideau (West Haven, CT)

July 7, 2012

Mr. Moss was one of the most influential teachers in my life, and I know that I am not alone in that sentiment. I came to love and appreciate music like never before with his guidance at LHS. I think he's a large part of the reason I got my Bachelor's in Music Education. It saddens me to think that such a bright light has been extinguished here on earth, but I have to smile thinking about the concerts going on in heaven right now. We'll miss you Mr Moss!

Susan Gumbs Sumara, Class of '87 (Charles County, MD)

July 7, 2012

I worked and played with Mike for during his time at Ledyard High School. There he influenced many many young and talented musicians. My heartfelt condolences to his family.

Bruce Douglass (North Stonington, CT)

July 7, 2012

Dr. Moss was a guest conductor during my time at Hartt while we worked on that fantastic Faure arrangement. I was honored to be be able to work with him. He shared passion and a high level of musicianship but never forgot that he was working with people. He thanked us for our work and we worked harder for him as a result. We always looked forward to our time with him. He shared joy and love at





every moment that we talked with him or played under his baton - - - a model educator that will be missed by the music community. My thoughts are with the family.

Janice Cook (Vernon, CT)

July 8, 2012

I met Mike in 1995 first via the telephone. He called me because I had put music on my activities category on the SCSU college application. We talked for over an hour about our mutual love of music, but he also took the time as he did throughout the 12 years I played with his bands to really know & understand me as a person. He changed my life always & was truly there when I needed him most. He will be missed always. Thank you Mike for putting up with my constant chatter & having the patience with our pep band silliness. You will always be remembered in my life as someone who made a difference from taking the time to make a phone call!

Jackie Spencer (Marlborough, CT)

July 8, 2012

I was on vacation when I heard the news and was greatly saddened. Like many here, I too shared my high school days in his band class. I have never met a single teacher since with more enthusiasm, passion or patience. But there is one memory that comes to mind that speaks to what a kind and gentle person he was. I went into my junior year having lost my father earlier that summer. The first time I saw him that school year - with no words spoken, he gave me a heartfelt hug. It meant a lot and still does. RIP Mr. Moss.

Marthee Thorndike (Mystic, CT)

July 8, 2012

Dr. Moss brought a special delight to every performance. I met him when he was director at SCSU, where my sons were students. His obvious enthusiasm for the music was infectious, and his ability to work with a varied and diverse group of musicians each semester to deliver a great performance was remarkable. He encouraged my non-music majors to pursue their academic goals, and welcomed them when it was possible for them to participate in the concert and pep bands. He was a wonderful educator and a positive influence in many lives. I am saddened at his passing, and grateful that he shared his gifts with my family.

Margaret Edwards (West Haven, CT)





July 8, 2012

If you're lucky enough to meet a person like Dr. Moss in your travels through this strange world, then you can say you have met a truly special person. He reached out for people and causes without ever needing to be asked. He took people from amazingly different backgrounds and experience levels and combined them into a cohesive unit called a band. Together, we reached greater heights than any of us ever imagined.

I will forever be grateful for having the opportunity to meet Dr. Moss and call him my conductor. He will be missed...

Jason Jacoby (Bloomfield, NJ)

July 8, 2012

I am so deeply saddened to hear about Mike's passing. I knew Mike when he worked at Southern and found him to be one of the kindest people I'd ever met. He will truly be missed.

Jean Breny (Hamden, CT)

July 8, 2012

Mr. Moss was an incredible and passionate teacher in Music! I knew him from his tenure at Ledyard High School. He was one of my favorites! He will be missed.

tom guilfoil (Nashua, NH)

July 8, 2012

My son lost a dear professor this past week. Dr. Myron Moss died of a massive heart attack. Luke was blessed to have been given a number of trumpet solos in the various Drexel Concerts, as well as other accolades from Dr. Moss. I personally had little contact with Dr. Moss. But in our few exchanges I found him to be exactly as his obituary described him. He was gentle, kind. He was also passionate about his work. Drexel has lost a valuable blessing . . . and it is hard to know how they will move on from here.

Thomas Brooks (Philadelphia)

July 9, 2012

My sympathies to all of Mike's family and to those who feel his loss. I worked at





Ledyard High School when Mike came to our music program and his energy and enthusiasm for music created an instant impact on our students and school.
Jerry Lentz (Ledyard, CT)

July 9, 2012

I owe a lot to Mr. Moss. He put up with me and my antics, taught me so much about music, much of that during his free time, and always meant well. SCSU should hold a memorial for him. He was a big part of their music program.
Will (CT)

July 9, 2012

Mike Moss was a gift to Ledyard High School staff and students! He blessed all of us with his love for music and his enthusiasm for sharing it. Thank you to his family for sharing him with all of us.
Jo Alexopoulos (Shrewsbury, MA)

July 9, 2012

Mike Moss! I met him at SCSU when he said, "Hilary Brentson? Are you related to Jeff Brentson?" I said, "No, but I'm married to him!". So my husband had him for high school band, and I met him in the music dep. at SCSU. This is truly the loss of a great person.
Hilary (CT)

July 10, 2012

The world will miss such a great man. I had the honor of playing for Dr. Moss in Drexel University's concert band. His passion for music was undeniable. He was caring and compassionate to all his students and he made my college experience significantly brighter. We not only talked about music but our shared love for running especially along Kelly Drive. My sympathies go out to his family. Rest in peace.
Deanna Buhay (Philadelphia, PA)

July 10, 2012

I am so saddened to learn that Mike has passed. Mike was a colleague at Southern





Connecticut State University where I still teach theater and he taught music. Our buildings on the campus were next to each other and I'd run into Mike frequently in the parking lot where we would catch up on personal news, campus news and also discuss our academic projects and long term professional goals. We had lots of good talks. I so admired his work on African American composers, research that was and will continue to be of significant historic value. He was a kind individual, a gentleman and a man of integrity. He has left us at too young an age, but he did live an admirable and good life. My sincere sympathies to his family. Sheila Hickey Garvey, Professor of Theater, Southern Connecticut State University
Sheila Garvey (Hamden, CT)

July 10, 2012

We met Mike in 1973 when he rented a room from us during his first year out of college as a new teacher at Interboro High School in Glenolden, PA. He became one of our very dearest friends. We shall miss his thoughtful, intelligent conversation, his kindness and high principles, his wondrous music-making, and his inspired gifts to us of authors whose books we should read (and did).

Some 70 people joined us on Sunday for a celebration of Mike's life: high school and college classmates, former students from all his work locations, Drexel University students, faculty and staff, relatives, and friends like us who just happened upon Mike serendipitously and integrated him into our lives. Folks came from Boston, Connecticut, Arizona, New Mexico, Washington State, Ohio, DC and from all over the Greater Philadelphia area. It was a happy/sad event but one which could not have failed to make Mike smile. We look forward to the memorial service that Drexel University will hold in October.
Peggy and Rod Morscheck (Ardmore, PA)

July 10, 2012

Mike had a great passion for bringing music to everyone, including those without musical talent, and integrating it with other curricula. He helped me include certain composers and pieces in my English classes at Ledyard High School, to the benefit of all of us. Long after he left LHS, my students benefited from his having been a part of our LHS family.
Ellen Madison (Westerly, RI)

July 10, 2012





Reading these comments is overwhelming. Over the last several years, I was fortunate to watch him with students and to sit in on some final band rehearsals. His quest for perfection was never-ending, and his devotion to his students, complete. He was a unique individual whose loss leaves the world darker, and my dearest friend, whose loss leaves my life empty.

Shoshana Lash (Ansonia, CT)

July 11, 2012

I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Moss or Myron as so many of us knew him at Ledyard High School. Although our paths have not crossed for quite some time, from all that I have read about him over the past few days, I have learned that he has left a very rich legacy. To me, he was gentleman at heart, a mentor, and a brilliant master of music. I had the honor of playing flute for four of the most memorable years of my life under his direction in concert and symphonic band. I remember his drive for perfection, his gifts of compassion and intelligence, his passion for marches and classical composers, and his devotion to building musical talent and confidence. Traveling to Europe and performing as a CT Ambassador of Music was an incredible journey. I am proud to say that a year ago, after thirty-something years, I began playing again the same flute that he encouraged me to buy in NYC while in high school. I send my sincerest condolences and thoughts of peace and comfort to his family. May the love he had for music forever live on in their hearts. Mr. Moss, you were a great inspiration to me and a blessing in my life. That inspiration has just been passed on to my 9-yr. old daughter, who this fall will be joining her 4th grade band as a flutist. Mr. Moss, you will be missed and forever be a treasure in my heart.

Kristen Steele Schilling (Westbrook, CT)

July 11, 2012

Dr. Moss was my band teacher at Ledyard High School. He definitely had a lot of patience. I think I might have subconsciously tried to find his breaking point. He always had a smile and a little jolt to my wit and I always respected his ability to bring out the best in all musicians he came in contact with. He was an awesome teacher who almost 30 years later, is still talked about by so many people for his enthusiasm and commitment to his students. Sorry for your loss. He will always be remembered.

Kristen Greene Venditti (Groton, CT)

July 12, 2012





My deepest condolences to the Moss Family. I am very sorry for your loss. Mr. Moss was my Ledyard High School Band Director and I will always remember him as being one of the most supportive, caring, and encouraging people I knew. He always went above and beyond his traditional duties to inspire us, teach us and instill the love of music in all of us. He spent countless hours driving me and others to performances that he arranged with his own personal connections so that we could have opportunities to grow as musicians, performers and people. I am extremely appreciative of everything he did for me.

Ellen Ulrich Sullivan (Belmont, MA)

July 14, 2012

I never got to meet Dr. Moss, but he was very kind when answering my e-mailed questions about music at Drexel. I was very excited to join his bands as a freshman dragon in the fall. I think it is really a shame that I will never get to play for him.

May he rest in peace.

Karly ?? (Lancaster, PA)

July 15, 2012

What a sad day to learn that Mr. Moss (or Myron) as we called him has died. As our band director at LHS, his enthusiasm for music was contagious. The friendships made being a "band-ite" were possible due to Mr. Moss's leadership and commitment to his students. What a shame to lose such a shining light for students so soon. Love to his family and friends.

Rebecca Ward (Chester Springs, PA)

July 16, 2012

Mr. Moss was my band director at Interboro High School. He was a dedicated teacher, uncommonly kind and patient. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. I am so very sorry for your loss.

cynthia biddle (norwood, PA)

July 20, 2012

I knew Dr. Moss from my year at Drexel. He was a consummate teacher and had faith in my abilities to allow me to conduct the Drexel Concert Band. Dr. Moss encouraged all musical expression and I felt privileged to be part of the Improvisational Chamber Music Ensemble as well as to have been introduced to





James Freeman and George Crumb. Without Dr. Moss, I would never have explored music as fully as I had. His warmth has reached far and beyond rehearsal and, I feel that my life has changed for the better after meeting Dr. Moss. Whenever I play music, I feel that I am paying homage to Dr. Moss.

Mark Inchoco (Levittown, PA)

July 20, 2012

I miss my friend Mike so much. He is my ex-husband's stepbrother. I felt truly loved and seen by Mike. His skills as a compassionate listener and willingness to share the challenges that life placed before him, meant hours of time richly shared on the phone and in-person. I know he loved all of you so BIG. Because he was SO good at that. Blessings to all his beloveds as we keep him in our hearts.

Bonnie Beckel (Minneapolis, MN)

July 20, 2012

I met Mike in August 1974. He asked me to help him with his marching band. We first became colleagues, then friends & roommates. When our professional paths took us apart we maintained our personal relationship. Over 38 years Mike became a member of my family. I considered him to be my brother. He was the kindest, caring, compassionate, intelligent and ethical person I ever met in my life. He truly loved his students, colleagues, friends and family. We are all better to have had Mike in our lives.

David Burkhart (Springfield, PA)

July 28, 2012

My husband and I were bandmates under Mike's direction at SCSU. He was such a good man and a solid educator. Many of my favorite memories from Southern occurred during rehearsal or concerts. Music with him was both fun and a good learning experience. We were deeply saddened by the news. My condolences to his friends and family; Bryan and I will never forget Myron Moss.

Elisabeth McGucken (Lakewood, OH)

August 5, 2012

I just learned today that Dr. Moss had passed. I played with his band at SCSU while I was an undergraduate at Quinnipiac University, and I'm not sure I've ever met someone who loved their career as much as Mike did. An incredibly warm and kind





person, who will be sadly missed.
Michael Pistone (Hartford, CT)

October 7, 2012

For people attending Mike's memorial at Drexel this Wednesday, here are some more details:

The Mandell Theater is at Chestnut and 33rd Streets in Philadelphia. The program will last from 3:30 to 5:00 and will be followed by a light reception in the foyer outside the theater.

There is on-street parking along the streets in the immediate area of the Mandell Theater. Parking is NOT free, but the kiosks take MasterCard and Visa. There are usually spaces to be found on Chestnut west of 33rd, on 33rd itself, and on Walnut, which is parallel to Chestnut and to its south. Chestnut is one way heading east and Walnut is one way heading west. Odd-numbered streets tend to be one way heading north and even-numbered streets one way heading south.

There is a great deal of construction going on at the corner of 33rd and Chestnut, and there is no sidewalk in front of the theater. There is a pedestrian crossing light on Chestnut about 50 feet from the corner. Once you've crossed the street, enter the building in front of you and follow the signs to the Mandell Theater.

If you are coming by train, you will be arriving at the 30th Street Station. Exit the station through the door at 30th and Market Streets. Cross Market and continue walking south on 30th to Chestnut. Turn right (west) on Chestnut and walk to the pedestrian crossing in front of the theater.

Immediately following the service, there will be an informal reception in the lobby of Mandell, where we hope you will take the opportunity to meet Mike's parents, Bob Moss and Sonya Kleider, and to share your stories of Mike with one another.
Shoshana Lash (Ansonia, CT)

October 9, 2012

The very finest if men. He made positive difference in so many lives. The reach of his music, teachings and inspiration will be felt through to the children of his friends





and their generations beyond. Dr.Moss {DR. Mike} gave more than direction through music. Mike gave life to humanity and brought humanity to life.

Rest----begin again.....

leonard kleider (AZ)

January 13, 2013

I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Mike's passing in the latest alumni magazine of Wesleyan University, where I was first graced with his friendship over forty-two years ago.

For all his awards and achievements, Mike wore commendations and titles with a self-deprecating smile and a hearty chuckle. Boundless commitment to music and to rewarding his students' love of the art form were what powered his effectiveness as a teacher. Decades ago I witnessed his limitless patience for varying levels of proficiency, as long as a desire to make music was the goal, even if on kazoo. This generous embrace of musical affinity was evident at Wesleyan, where his own preference for jazz did not keep him from engaging music favored by floor mates, from "All Things Must Pass" to "Who's Next." He delved for input on our favorites and offered his own critical assessment of certain songs, providing insights that dozens of hazy listenings had missed.

Mike's friendship was a wavelength of infinite distance. Years ago I asked if he would play a simple theme on trumpet for a low-budget picture, "Wherever Two," in which I had a hand. In response, he co-composed, arranged, assembled musicians for, and supervised the recording of an entire original score, seeking reimbursement for the studio costs and nothing more. That the movie's music was consistently singled out for praise--vs. a mixed reception for the work as a whole--is not an exaggeration.

I last met Mike to attend a concert at Carnegie Hall in which one of his students was performing with an ensemble. Following that event he was ten octaves happier than his usual happy. From his own playing career and arranging new and old music for concert bands, to his high school and university teaching and conducting student orchestras, Mike's focus was always on the making of music and bringing more people to it, as musicians and as an audience. Of the people I knew at Wesleyan, no one became a more effective idealist in the world of the arts than Mike Moss. His living memory continues to guide.

Peter Myette (New York, NY)





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