



Blake Edwin Wiener

May 8, 1953 - March 25, 2016

Blake Edwin Wiener, 62, of Schaumburg, Illinois, passed away on March 25, 2016. Born on May 8, 1953, in Jamestown, Ohio, Blake grew up in Ohio and Michigan, attending elementary school in Michigan, grades 5-10 in Finneytown Public Schools near Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduating from Glenwood High School, Canton, Ohio, in 1971. In 1976 Blake earned a Bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, specializing in music education. In later years he continued his graduate studies at Northern Illinois University and VanderCook College of Music in Chicago.

Blake was a musician at an early age, playing the piano at age 6, the flute in junior high, and oboe in high school. Because oboe was not a marching band instrument, Blake played the cymbals with great flourish and hilarity. At Bowling Green Blake began playing the English horn which became his favorite instrument.

Being a music educator was Blake's greatest love. After teaching music for two years in Plain Local Schools in Canton, Ohio, Blake moved to Illinois where he taught in Medinah School District #11. He taught band and general music at the middle school and elementary level, mentoring band students from 5th grade through high school. He was proud of his extracurricular work as a woodwind specialist with Lake Park High School marching band, especially in 1996 when they won the Bands of America Grand National

Championship.

Blake's influence went beyond the classroom. He worked with oboe and saxophone students in the mentor program through Bensonville Park District. He also provided guidance and support to young people entering their first years of music education. Blake taught private oboe and English horn lessons and in later years assisted the woodwinds section of the Plainfield High School marching band program.

An avid lover of figure skating, Blake learned to ice skate living in Michigan in his early years, and followed the Olympics and other skating events throughout his life. He was fond of tennis and enjoyed attending the Association of Tennis Professionals Tournament with his father in Mason, Ohio. He is well remembered by his friends for his outlandish wit and humorous antics, as well as his cooking, entertaining, and decorating skills.

Blake is survived by his father, Paul E. Wiener; sisters, Beth Brokaw and Beckie Ballinger (Rusty); nieces, Rachel Brokaw Kieltyka (Joseph) and Tess Ballinger; and nephew, Quinn Ballinger. Blake is preceded in death by his mother, Alice L. (Allred) Wiener, and his aunt, Ann Pennington.

Blake will be laid to rest in Washington Park East Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana. A celebration of his life will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2016 at the Medinah Baptist Church Atrium, 900 Foster Avenue, Medinah, Illinois, 60157.

Because of his devotion to music education, a scholarship fund has been established in Blake's name. Memorial contributions may be made to the Blake Wiener Woodwind Scholarship fund at VanderCook College of Music, 3140 S. Federal Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60616

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **30**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Medinah Baptist Church
900 Foster Avenue
Medinah, IL 60157

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I was a Trumpet Major at BGSU from 1972-76. I won the 1975-76 Concerto Competitions on Piccolo Trumpet- "Concerto Sonata"- G.P. Telemann for Trumpet, Strings & Continuo. Following the Recital, Blake approached me about playing "Quiet City"-Aaron Copland, for English Horn, Trumpet & Strings. I jumped at the chance! Dr. John Bentley, Blake's Oboe teacher, sat in on rehearsals. He helped me pick the best "C" Trumpet for me to play & which of 7 Straight Mutes complimented the English Horn. The performance was Excellent! I mourn Blake's loss daily. It's been 45 years, & I still tear-up thinking of the Copeland Concert. Michael McClary

MICHAEL McClary - August 17, 2025 at 12:42 PM

MM

“ Blake & I were Performance Majors at the CMA of Bowling Green State University in the 70s. I played "Quiet City"- Copland, for English Horn, Trumpet, & Strings, for Blake's Senior Recital. We toured it at University of Toledo, Oberlin Conservatory. Great Friend!

Michael McClary - May 07, 2025 at 12:24 AM

MM

“ Blake & I were Performance majors at BGSU College of Musical Arts from 1972-76. Bake's Oboe Professor was John Bentley. After my Senior Recital in 76, Dr. Bentley approached me about playing "Quiet City"- Aaron Copland for English Horn, Trumpet, & Strings. We did it with friends from the BGSU Symphony. Blake was magnificent. We played Quiet City on 3 College campuses. Standing Ovations are Good Things!- Michael McClary, Professor of Trumpet 🎺, Georgia Perimeter College/GSU

Michael McClary - March 16, 2025 at 09:10 PM

JC

“ *Mr. Weiner was my favorite teacher in middle school and a caring enthusiastic man. He was my band director --so fun-- and also taught History of Rock and Roll where we had a field trip to see Styx. In high school I had an assignment to write a biography of someone I admired and I chose Mr. Weiner. It was a gift to learn deeply about his life to that point. I am saddened to recently learn of his passing.*

Jim Carter (now Cartreine), Medinah Middle School class of 1982.

Jim Cartreine - May 25, 2022 at 11:29 PM

GB

“ *So sorry to hear of Blake's passing...especially at such a young age. I knew him when I was a French Horn major at Bowling Green . We played in several ensembles together and I remember him as an outstanding musician and a great personality...always fun to work with. I'm sure his contributions as a teacher will last for many generations. Condolences to the family and peace to all.*

Gary Bales, Class of 1974

Gary Bales - August 28, 2017 at 08:24 PM

 Audrey
Hattan

“ *My condolences go out to the Weiner family. I was never much of an athlete, but i loved music. Mr Weiner exposed me to instrumental music when I was in junior high. When the whol band played together,it sounded amazing! I'm sure Mr. Weiner is conducting the children in Heaven as we speak..RIP Mr. Weiner*

Audrey Hattan - April 26, 2016 at 12:53 PM



“ *When I think of Blake, or Mr. Wiener by which will always know and remember him, I smile...and am forever grateful for his memorable sense of humor and dedication to his students. Thank you Mr. Wiener for all that you've contributed to many students lives (!) The memories will always remain. Rest in PEACE....*



Lora Troesken - April 26, 2016 at 12:12 PM

PH

“ *I will always remember Blake – his faith; his love of life; his compassion for his students; his willingness to go over and beyond; and his genuine love and care about each person. What a blessing I have cherished throughout these many years to have such a wonderful friend. I look forward to being together in heaven someday! Until then, we remember you, Blake, with great love and compassion. Thank you for being such a special part of my life. Our prayers continue for your family and friends as they mourn your passing. You are truly missed.*

-Pam Hopton-Jones

Pam Hopton-Jones - April 22, 2016 at 07:24 AM

EM

“ I taught with Blake for only a couple of years at a middle school in Canton, Ohio, but Blake and I grew close during that time. Blake was always in a good mood and energized both students and faculty. When I was getting a divorce, he offered me a place to stay. He was a good and close friend, one who became best man at my wedding. The world has lost a mentor, a funnyman, and a friend.

--Ed Meunier

Ed Meunier - April 19, 2016 at 04:32 PM

SL

“ My memories of Blake have made me laugh hilariously or cry. I'm choosing to laugh from here on. Susie Low

Susan Low - April 16, 2016 at 09:05 AM

JE

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Jeff - April 09, 2016 at 10:33 AM

JE

Blake Wiener was my band teacher at Medinah Middle School and we later served together on the Lake Park High School Marching Band staff together. He was an excellent music teacher a very talented musician. He was also very patient with his students while making music fun for everyone. I'm very saddened to hear of his passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends...dolente.

Jeff - April 09, 2016 at 10:59 AM

MK

“ *What a loss so many have felt with Blake's passing. Heaven has a new angel with an occasional wicked sense of humor. I met Blake on a teachers' picket line in Canton, OH, 1977, and though he left the area for Chicago, we've remained good friends--- visiting each other and taking a few vacations together. Blake's generosity and selflessness were beyond reproach. Rest in peace, my friend.*

Mike Kamionka - April 06, 2016 at 09:09 AM

JM

“ *Blake was a great teacher and a good friend, his passing has left me heartbroken. We taught together for 30 years. Everyday he made me and all the other teachers laugh. He was a great motivator and a fine band director. He was Medinah blue and supported all programs,I appreciated that as a coach. Goodbye good friend. REST IN PEACE.*
JOE MORDINI

JOE MORDINI - April 03, 2016 at 06:15 PM

TJ

“ *Mr. Wiener was my band teacher at Medinah Middle School. He was an excellent teacher, very patient with his students. He made music fun and certainly made a difference in many lives. I'm very saddened to hear of his passing. Thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.*

Tracy Jorgenson - March 30, 2016 at 05:14 PM