



David E. Petersen

January 11, 1952 - April 10, 2018

David E. Petersen, 66, of Indianapolis, passed away April 10, 2018. He was born January 11, 1952 in St. Paul, MN, to the late Sigvald and Pearl Palumbo Petersen. Dave was a graduate of Harding Sr. High School in St. Paul and received his B.A. degree from Gateway College of Ministries in St. Louis, MO. He married the love of his life, Bonita J. Hammans, December 1, 1979.

Dave was an Evangelist and Minister of Music for the past 48 years. He was an original member of the Lanny Wolfe Trio with one of their albums being nominated for a Grammy in 1980. The Lanny Wolfe Trio also was the winner of two Dove Awards. His first solo album, entitled "Lord I'm Yours", won Top Ten Vocalist of the Year.

Visitation will be Monday, April 16, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. until the time of the Funeral Service at 7:00 p.m. at Family Life Worship Center, 8449 N. Fox Hollow Rd., Bloomington, IN, (directions, 37 north of Bloomington to East Sample Road; north on Sample Road to Fox Hollow Road). Interment will be Tuesday, April 17, at 2:00 p.m. at Acton Cemetery in Acton, IN.

Dave is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 38 years, Bonita J. Petersen; his son, the pride of his life, Rev. Ryan C. Petersen, wife Hannah; his granddaughter, the light of his life, Cora Lynn; and his brother, Richard Petersen.

In lieu of floral tributes, memorial contributions are suggested to the family. Final care and arrangements have been entrusted to Shirley Brothers

Thompson Road Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Acton Cemetery

7901 Acton Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46259

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 16. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Worship Center
8449 North Fox Hollow Road
Bloomington, IN 47408

Funeral Service

APR 16. 7:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Worship Center
8449 North Fox Hollow Road
Bloomington, IN 47408

Tribute Wall

KT

“ Rev. David, thank you for your legendary contributions to Christian music, especially with the Lanny Wolfe Trio. You influenced and inspired more Christian creatives than you could imagine, and you set forth more ministries than you ever knew of. Thank you, sincerely and most earnestly, "thank you."

Keith Tyler - May 07, 2025 at 01:26 AM

RR

“ I am a former member of Castle Hills UPC. I am now in the Philippines as an interim pastor in Masical, Baggao. My memories of Bro Dave are filled with love, and warmth for both him, and Sis Bonita. Bro Dave, and Sis Bonita became our first real music ministry for our church. It was so exciting to have one of the original Lanny Wolfe singers to not just be our music pastor, but to learn from him. He challenged us to be better, and to work on our singing, and instruments. When he accepted the position, I was the driver of the U-Haul truck that brought him, and Sis Bonita's furniture, and belongings to San Antonio, Texas. I will always miss Bro, and Sis Peterson, and I am always grateful for everything they taught us, and the grace for which they lived their lives.

Robert Mark Rice - May 06, 2025 at 05:58 AM

GF

“ I came across the news of Daves passing accidentally. I am so sorry for your loss. I loved his anointing and have been blessed over and over. He looked like an angel on the album covers.

Georgie Foster - May 23, 2019 at 08:03 PM

DH

“ As a 17-year-old from a town of 1,000+/- moving to Jackson and attending a church of 1000+/-, everything became larger than life. One of the components was the man we affectionately called “Pete,” Dave Petersen. In Webster’s, next to the word “animation,” I’m sure is his picture. While traveling over three years with him in all types of conditions, I honestly don’t recall a single cross word. (I’m sure that wasn’t because of my relationship skills....) Dave was the consummate peacemaker. I’m grateful for the time I was able to spend with him and the memories we’ll cherish forever. Bonita and Ryan, you’re in our prayers. The song of the hour: Some Day I’ll (We’ll) Walk on Gold!

David Hutton - April 17, 2018 at 11:00 PM

TF

Just learned of Dave's death. What a voice! What a blessing! Can't wait to hear him sing in heaven some day!

t. foley - August 23, 2020 at 03:10 PM

SP

“ We enjoyed singing at the 1978 Annual Mother's Day Gospel sing at the Morgantown High School in Morgantown WV-May 1978. We opened with some other groups before The Lanny Wolfe Trio took the stage. Marietta used my wife's tamborine, because she had left her's in her flight bag! The Holy Ghost moved, to those who know how to worship in Spirit and in Truth. There was some technical difficulties with the sound system, but They sang in the Holy Spirit.

I recall hearing them the night before at Clarksburg WV.Amory at a UPC regional rally. We enjoyed the anointed singing of the Lanny Wolfe Trio, Lanny, Marietta, Dave Petersen, Wayne Goodine. WE appreciated Pastor Edwin Harper and Riverside Apostolic Church for bringing them our way!

I thought as many others, their blend was superb and David's voice was powerful, and he was one of the best tenors for a mixed group I'd ever heard! We loved singing with the LWT and it is an experience we'll never forget. We are saddened but thankful concerning his home going. We'll get there soon too David! "Friends and Loved ones, are waiting, to welcome me yonder, I'm sailing to my heavenly home".

*Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Stephen W Pyle
and The Message of Christ Trio.
P.O. Box 965
Elkins WV
304-637-0073*

Stephen Pyle - April 16, 2018 at 12:49 PM

KZ

“ Dear Bonita, Ryan and family: Praying for you all but also thinking of wonderful memories of Dave: His imitations of so many people, his hilarious personality, of course...his awesome voice, and the many trips we were on for chorale during my JCM days! Oh the conversations on that bus! He was so kind, so loving and generous. I know his joy really was his family...over everything else, his accomplishments were nothing compared to his love of you all. Wishing I could be in Bloomington tonight, but weather issues do not permit. I know Jesus Christ is your all in all and He will provide strength, comfort, financial help and whatever else you need. Love you all. Frank & Karen Zenobia

KAREN J ZENOBIA - April 16, 2018 at 11:11 AM

BH

There was only one Lanny Wolf Trio It was such a Blessing to my wife Sharon and I They were so anointed our Prayers are with y'all .

Bobby Herrington - April 19, 2018 at 09:47 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of David E. Petersen.



April 14, 2018 at 09:18 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of David E. Petersen.



April 14, 2018 at 08:27 AM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of David E. Petersen.*



April 12, 2018 at 09:20 PM



“ *Dave sang at our wedding in Jackson ms. He sang "Lord, I'm yours" - as we knelt at the altar.*

He came moved to FPC Jackson, with LWT.

Sherri & I were blessed to have Dave as our first neighbor. We lived two blocks from the church. Many happy moments.

Dave & I entertained at the first Music Conference banquet in 1976.

We killed it!

His impersonations of Vesta Mangun and Jean Urshan. I nailed my impersonations of NA Urshan and Murrell Ewing. The crowd loved it.

Over the years we have enjoyed the company of Dave and his angel Bonita, all over the USA.

He was a real friend and true Christian.

In his difficult days-he never grew bitter nor lost his faith. He never lost the song in his heart. Rare musical artistry, coupled with richly gifted anointing flowed freely from his devoted vessel. I will cherish every moment. Our tears are mixed with smiles, remembering the great Dave Petersen, till we meet again.

mark grisham - April 12, 2018 at 03:53 PM



We had Dave Peterson come sing at our church a couple of times and I was really impressed with his Gentle Spirit and it's down to earth personality. Even though I did not know him well, I was saddened to hear the news a Brother Peterson's passing.

Mark Uzupan - April 17, 2018 at 04:45 PM

JP

“ Have listened to the Lanny Wolfe trio for yrs, since I was in my 20's, I am 63 yrs young, what a blessing they have been,, I sing a couple of their songs today, thank you Dave Peterson for the life you lived for Jesus,

Jean Patterson - April 12, 2018 at 10:45 AM

JD

My daughter, Carla DeMerchant went to JCM years ago & truly loved working with the Lanny Wolfe Trio her first year of College. My cousin, Wayne Goodine, is also a very close friend of the trio members. Their music has touched our hearts for years. Please know our thoughts & prayers will be with you now & in the days ahead. Sincerely, Jeanne DeMerchant.

Jeanne DeMerchant - April 12, 2018 at 01:29 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of David E. Petersen.



April 12, 2018 at 08:51 AM

RN

“ I met Dave my first year at JCM...I was always a bit envious of him singing with the Lanny Wolfe Trio...and not me! He was always the life of the party, whether at a restaurant or an actual party. :) Always friendly and encouraging, always ready with his impersonation of Sis. Jean Urshan, Sis. Vesta Mangun and others! We would occasionally have a contest as to who could sing higher, in those famous JCM practice rooms...Dave would win!!! :) This is such a shock... Dear Bonita, Ryan and Family our prayers are with you all. Dave you and you one of a kind voice and ways will be missed! Go rest high! Reg Nevitt

Reg Nevitt - April 12, 2018 at 04:26 AM

JH

“ I met Dave with his brother RICHARD , and Mother at a General Conference .
Pre Gateway era ...but even in that few minutes his Mother was so friendly , they also .
I never forgot that brief but meaningful exchange .
Bonita such a sweet Lady ..many thoughts of the whole clan .
Praying the Comforter will Comfort .

JAMES S Hedrick

James Hedrick - April 11, 2018 at 10:52 PM