

Lawrence Jacobs

Lawrence (Larry) Jacobs took his final bow on October 9, 2020.

Like many of the conductors and musicians he greatly admired, Larry's passion for music and contributions to his loved ones were never all on one note.

At the early age of six, Larry was on a mission to dedicate his life to becoming a percussionist and received his first professional training at Philadelphia's Settlement Music School with Michael Booksman at the age of thirteen. By sixteen, he was performing, professionally, at nightclubs and eventually landed a scholarship to attend Julliard.

His fondest memory at Julliard while working under the mentorship of the highly respected conductor, Jean Morel, Larry was approached by Professor Morel and was told that one day, he would have the ability to become an extraordinary percussionist. And indeed, his skills went on to create a symphonic legacy.

Larry went on to work all over the world with the American Symphony Orchestra. During his years in New York City, he worked with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, played in the original Broadway production of Man of La Mancha, and performed at Radio City Music Hall and Carnegie Hall. He participated in televised performances of Lincoln Center Live, Marilyn Horne's Songbook, and WNET Gala Of The Stars. He enjoyed working with Leonard Bernstein and Leopold Stokowski and the list goes on and on. A reflection of his dedication and love for music.

Larry's contributions evolved as his determination to pass his skills down to the next generation of musicians took precedent. While teaching at Montclair State University, he joined forces with his wife to establish their first Musical Theatre course. A curriculum developed by their shared experiences working on Broadway. He continued to lead his students as the conductor of Montclair's Theatrefest for many years until life finally brought him back to Pennsylvania, where it all began.

As life came full circle, Larry remained a teacher at Proline Music until the day he couldn't. His passion for music always continued throughout his house, from having drum pads in the living room to the numerous instruments residing in the basement. Any inspiration coming to him had to be played out, instantly. Larry's wife Christine (Chris), his son Andrew and wife Jillian, his son Sam (Samuel) and wife Gina, his granddaughter Gemma, his two dogs Hawk and Liberty are the remaining family members of his rhythmic journey.

His favorite musician of all time, Mozart, once said:

“I am one of those who will go on doing till all doings are at an end”

Larry did just that and will always be remembered as the person who went to the beat of his own drum.