



Ward Gailey III

January 13, 1952 - January 13, 2025

Ward Gailey III, 73, passed away peacefully with his wife and son by his side at Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center Monday, January 13th, 2025. He was a noted vocal/choral music educator and director, professional operatic tenor, published composer and arranger, and choral competition adjudicator.

He received his Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from University of South Carolina, and continued his studies at the University of Illinois where he received his Master of Music Degree in performance with emphasis on opera. At Illinois he studied under James Bailey, David Lloyd, William Warfield, and Eric Dalhiem and was stage manager for performances at Krannert Center of Performing Arts.

Mr. Gailey's introduction to teaching choral music was at Hardaway High School in Columbus, GA, where his choirs consistently received superior ratings. He also taught high school choirs in Dekalb, Rockdale and Clayton counties, and at Andrew College in Cuthbert, GA, and Atlanta Metropolitan State College. Beginning in high school, he sang and directed choirs at various churches in South Carolina and Georgia. He had the unique opportunity of singing High Holy Days at the Temple in Atlanta.

At various times Mr. Gailey sang with Capitol City Opera Company, Americolor Opera Alliance, Huntsville Opera Theater, and C.W. Post Summer Opera of Long Island. Some of his favorite operatic roles were Don Jose in "Carmen", Canio in "Pagliacci", and Tamino in "Magic Flute". In his various

performances, he had the privilege to sing Mozart "Requiem" at Southwestern College with President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter in attendance.

He had the distinction of creating the roles of Franklin Herndon in "The Herndon's" and Monsieur Papa "LaFargue" and Captain Edward John Smith in "LaRoche". Composed by Dr. Sharon J. Willis of Americolor Opera Alliance; both operas were world premieres.

He is survived by his wife Linda (Lin) Macheimer Gailey, son, Jonathan (Melissa) Gailey, grandchildren, James and Evelyn Gailey; mother, Betty Jean Gailey, sister, Alyson Gailey of Columbia, SC; Michael (Cindy) Gailey of Ashville, NC: Numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be held Saturday, February 1st, at 2:30 PM at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Conyers, GA. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. In Lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Epiphany Lutheran Church or National Kidney Foundation.

The family would like to thank the staffs of the hospital ICU and Compassus Hospice for their compassionate care.

He was music and music was him.

Condolences may be submitted on-line at www.scotward.com. Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Epiphany Lutheran Church
2375 Highway 20 SE
Conyers, GA 30013
(770) 483-6222

Service

FEB 1. 2:30 PM (ET)

Epiphany Lutheran Church
2375 Highway 20 SE
Conyers, GA 30013

Tribute Wall

SF

“ Suwanee family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ward Gailey III.



Suwanee family - January 29, 2025 at 02:35 PM

KL

“ I was lucky enough to have performed in many shows with Ward but my fondest memory is singing the duet, “Lily’s Eyes” from The Secret Garden with him many times in Atlanta and in concerts across Italy. He was such a talented person, thoughtful and generous. My condolences to Lynn, Jonathan and your family.

Keith Lee - January 24, 2025 at 03:57 PM

CT

“ I hosted some of the Opera Nights when Ward was singing. I was a fan, for sure, and he returned the feeling. A kind man with a big heart. I’m so very sorry he has died. My sincere condolences are with you, his family. Cynthia Tyler

Cynthia Tyler - January 24, 2025 at 03:27 PM

PU

“ Peach State Federal Credit Union purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ward Gailey III.



Peach State Federal Credit Union - January 24, 2025 at 08:57 AM

BL

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Ward’s passing. Lin and Jonathan, you are in my prayers. I have many happy memories of playing for Capitol City Opera with Ward singing. My condolences.

Ben Leaptrott - January 22, 2025 at 05:10 PM

CB

“ Mr. Gailey was a welcomed warm and pleasant new addition to our dialysis family here in Conyers. In spite of him not feeling well at times, he was ALWAYS pleasant and ready to chat. Sending our deepest condolences to his family.
FMC Conyers

Candace Butts - January 22, 2025 at 04:58 PM

LC

“ I am deeply sorry to hear of the passing of Ward Gailey. I first met him when we were both singing at an event for Capitol City Opera. I was of course, amazed by his talent but even more amazed by his kindness. He was very supportive of his colleagues and always willing to share his talent and knowledge with others. He touched so many lives for the better through his singing and teaching and I feel so lucky to have known him. Rest well my friend and sing with the angels!

Lori Ann Christian - January 21, 2025 at 12:08 AM

JF
Bass

“ Sorry to hear of Ward's passing. He was a good friend in college, and he accomplished much in his time. Rest in peace!

JF Bass - January 19, 2025 at 01:21 PM

SS

“Ward was not only a wonderful music man, he was a genuine gentleman. I was blessed to have worked with Ward at Stockbridge Presbyterian Church for many years. He will truly be missed by many, but I am sure he has found many sweet souls to keep him singing.

Ron and Sue Scheer

Sue Scheer - January 19, 2025 at 08:17 AM

BH

“Sorry for your loss. I enjoyed viewing Ward's posts as a friend on FB. I knew Ward's family growing up at Grace Baptist Church in Sumter, SC. I was also in the same grade as Ward. I pray that God will comfort you all in your time of grief.

Bert Hubbard

Bert Hubbard - January 18, 2025 at 09:35 PM

DH

I have very fond memories of Ward singing with us at The Temple. He was very good about keeping in touch, long after his Temple days. He always had a kind word and a smile on his face.

Deborah Hartman

Deborah Hartman - January 22, 2025 at 08:53 PM

JD

“Ward was definitely music. All kinds of music. We were fortunate enough for his direction and especially his voice at Stockbridge Presbyterian Church. His patience with youth was appreciated more than once on youth Sundays. The Dunn family will miss him dearly.

John Dunn - January 18, 2025 at 09:25 PM

LW

“ I was honored to be in his chorus for three years in high school and two years in college. He encouraged me to be my best and brought out the voice in me. He was a special man and kept in touch with his students until his recent passing. We will all miss him so much.

Lisa Williams - January 18, 2025 at 06:28 PM

LT

Singing with the angels now! I love you Ward and will sing with you when I get there! You were my leading man many times in our various Capital City Roles. May God's peace and presence be with you Lin and Jonathan. He will be remembered for his beautiful life and generosity!



Leslie Thompson - January 18, 2025 at 09:15 PM

JW

“ Ward was my first teaching mentor, unofficially, where I taught art and he was the chorus teacher in the classroom next door. He taught me how to enjoy teaching what I loved, as he did, without getting bogged down in the politics of the education world. We had a lot of laugh-filled lunches. Ward knew how to enjoy working. He was a fun work friend. Our friendship extended to our family lives after my first child was born and we needed child care for a sickly baby. Ward introduced me to his sweet wife Lin who lovely cared for our baby. So much love was shown for our child that we made Ward and Lin his godparents. Ward was now “The Godfather” as he liked to joke. He and Lin became family; loved like family; will always be our family.

Jennifer Wolfe - January 18, 2025 at 06:04 PM

IT

“ Was privileged to share the stage with him at the University of Illinois. We shared many a laugh together

Ivan Thomas - January 18, 2025 at 05:03 PM

AG

“Wardie, my big brother, my superhero was my angel. I am his biggest fan and always will be. When he sang, he touched and stirred my soul. I could never listen and not weep. Thanks to Ward and our precious father Ward Gailey Jr, music is my muse, my sanctuary my therapy! It is my lifeline in any situation. I know, the two of them are leading a heavenly choir of beautiful liturgical and classical pieces created by the greats gone long before. I will miss my Wardie every moment of the day until I get to see him again!! I love you big brother! You are whole once again and free of pain, meds and diets!! 💕💕 Alyson

Alyson Gailey - January 18, 2025 at 04:07 PM

AF

It was a honor to know Ward Gailey. He was always so kind to my family and a true gentleman. He will be missed by many. Prayers for the family.
Al Floyd

Al Floyd - January 19, 2025 at 09:51 AM

MW

Jonathan, wonderful memories from so many that your Father Mr. Gailey touched with his angelic voice. He must have been such a great mentor. Please take time to reflect on his love of music that he shared with so many. Also, we thank your Dad for the wonderful musical genes that he passed down to you. Kathy & I have you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. Mikey awaits that amazing musical voice to sing with the Angels.

mike warren - January 19, 2025 at 10:52 AM

LD

WHAT A LOSS ! This world needs more Ward Gailey's, not fewer. From the time I subbed (organ) for him in Conyers, we never lost contact. He & Lyn had a marriage made in heaven. My heart goes out to Lyn & family.

Lee Duncan - January 20, 2025 at 10:43 AM

LB

When you sang The Lord's Prayer at SPC it brought tears to my eyes, but I'm sure God was smiling! He has you now in his Choir of Angels. My condolences to Lin and Jonathan. Lynne Bailey

Lynne S Bailey - January 31, 2025 at 11:43 AM