



Mary Brown

November 19, 1948 - December 10, 2016

Mary Ann Brown was born on November 19, 1948. She was born in San Diego, California at Mercy Hospital to William Elmer Brown and Edna Guptill. From her early childhood years, Mary exhibited a keen interest and ability in music. She loved to sing and soon began taking and excelling in piano. She had an artist temperament and loved to dress in bright colors. After graduating from high school in Fullerton, Mary attended University of Arizona in Tucson. She studied there for a year, and then decided to come back to California and complete her bachelor studies in Music Performance at Cal State Fullerton. Her studies were interrupted when her travel took her to Malmo, Sweden, to pursue musical opportunities awaiting her there. She played with the Malmo Symphony as well as accompanying many other singers and performers in the area. She also took advantage of her location to play in other European countries, such as Scotland, Iceland, and England. Returning to California, she completed her Bachelors degree before moving to New York City. There she taught privately in her studio and performed with many accomplished musicians and singers. In 1985 she performed with Director John Rutter at Carnegie Hall, a highlight of her musical career. After her father passed away in 1994, Mary returned to California to be close to her mother. She continued to teach lessons and perform at Cal State Fullerton and other local colleges. Mary passed away peacefully on December 10, 2016, after a long illness. Her mother, Edna Vivian Brown, who is 98, survives her. She was a great gift to the world of music, her family and friends. We will miss her greatly, but are

comforted by knowing she is at peace with her father and her younger brother,
Michael Scott, who have welcomed her home.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Memory Garden Memorial Park & Mortuary
455 W. Central Ave.
Brea, CA 92821
(714) 529-3961
info@memorygarden.com
<https://www.memorygarden.com/>

Funeral Service

DEC **21**. 11:00 AM (PT)

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Tribute Wall

KP

“ I am sad to hear that Mary Ann is no longer with us. She was a fierce spirit and highly talented. She was my pianist of choice to accompany me when we were both at Cal State Fullerton in the late 1970s. She was a terrific collaborator and mentor who brought me music to explore and pushed me to create phrases I did not know I could! She played on my graduate recital, and we toured a little after graduation including a wonderful trip to Yale and Delaware. A remarkable person. I am grateful to have known her and especially grateful to have worked with her.

Kate Peters - December 04, 2025 at 03:08 PM

AH

“ Dear Mary Ann, I am so sad to hear this terrible news. I have been looking for you for years. Thanks for teaching me so much. Love,
Alda

Alda Schwonke Hilsinger - August 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I first met Mary Brown (whom I knew as Mary Ann) in the late 1960s when we were both undergraduate music students at California State College, Fullerton. I was majoring in voice, Mary Ann in piano. CSF was a brand-new college at that time. The Music Department was small, and it was easy to get to know everyone there. There were many opportunities for music majors to obtain performance experience at CSF, and in Orange County. I do not remember how we met, but we were soon working together on all sorts of repertoire: operatic arias, concert and sacred music, German lieder. She was one of the finest accompanists I ever worked with, and one of the most dedicated musicians. Music was her life. She was not only an accomplished soloist, but also a very sensitive, intuitive accompanist. One of our big numbers was the Jewel Song from Gounod's opera, Faust," which we performed many times together. Eventually we went separate ways to continue our musical studies and careers I to Italy, and she to Sweden. However, our paths crossed many times over the years, as we both eventually found our way to New York City. We discovered we were both going home for Christmas to Orange County in 1974 (?). We decided to give a recital while we were there, in the church of Mary Ann's family, Fullerton Methodist. That was our last performance together, but we continued to meet occasionally in New York. I lost track of her for a number of years, and was deeply saddened to learn in 2010 of her illness. I send my most sincere sympathy to her mother, Edna, and cousin, Lorayne. Mary Ann was one of the finest musicians I have known, and I will never forget her. Martha (LaRocca) Mulkiewicz

Martha Mulkiewicz - December 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM