



# Maurice Townsend Casey

JUL 18, 1932 - NOV 22, 2022



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# Maurice Townsend Casey

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**M**aurice T. Casey, 90, of Worthington, OH, passed peacefully from this world on November 22, 2022.

“Casey” lived an amazing, impactful life, touching countless people with his kindness and talents.

He was born to Jesse Frank and Mildred T. Casey in Washington, D.C., on July 18, 1932. Much of Casey’s life was then filled with music. He earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Kansas and a Master in Choral Conducting from Columbia University. While assisting with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, he met Jane Barker, his “first chair soprano” and director of the orchestra’s children’s chorus. They married in 1964; had a daughter, Colleen, and settled in Worthington.

Casey joined the faculty of the School of Music at The Ohio State University (OSU) in 1967 as Director of Choruses and conductor of the Symphonic Choir, University Chorus and Women’s Glee Club. He had previously been on the music faculties of Montana State University and Baldwin-Wallace College.

In his first year at OSU, Casey founded the University Chorale, a small ensemble featuring the university’s top singers, and later in his tenure, founded the Scarlet and Gray Show Choir. He flourished at OSU, becoming a Full Professor and remaining on the faculty until his retirement in 1994, when the university named him Professor Emeritus.

Casey served as Director of Music at the Worthington United Methodist Church from 1967 to 2006. He was also founder and director of the Cantari Singers of Columbus, a professional choir, from 1983 to 1995, and conductor of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra chorus.

From 1983 to 1985, Casey was national president of the American Choral Director’s Association, as well as serving as state president in Ohio from 1975 to 1977 and central division president from



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1977 to 1981.

Additionally, Casey was a member of the Robert Shaw Chorale. He had a lifetime association and friendship with Shaw, whom he considered his mentor. In the early years, Casey assisted Shaw in preparing the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus for performances under George Szell, Pablo Casals and Shaw himself. After retiring from OSU, he became Director of the Robert Shaw Choral Institute where he auditioned and prepared choruses for the Robert Shaw Choral Workshops at Carnegie Hall and the Robert Shaw Festivals in France.

In 1989, the Ohioana Library Excellence in Music Award was presented to Casey.

In addition to music and family, Casey loved the OSU Buckeyes, his great neighbors and friends, golf and fly fishing, excellent food and drink, and singing his words. He truly brightened this world with his kindness and laughter.

Casey is survived by his daughter, Colleen “Squirt” Casey; son-in-law Andrew Wildman; brother Charles Casey; sister-in-law Anne Barker; multiple nieces, nephews and other family members, and his close partner of 13 years, Barbara Dufour.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jane, to whom he was married for 43 years until she passed in 2007, and his parents, brother-in-law Richard Barker, sister-in-law Billie Casey and nephew Charles Casey, Jr.

A memorial service will be held at Worthington United Methodist Church, 600 North High St., Worthington, OH 43085 on Sunday, January 8, 2023. A calling hour will begin at 2:00 PM in the church’s Dixon Lounge, followed by the service at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary. An informal celebration of life will follow from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the York Golf Club, 7459 North High St., Columbus, OH 43235.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Worthington United Methodist Music Program.



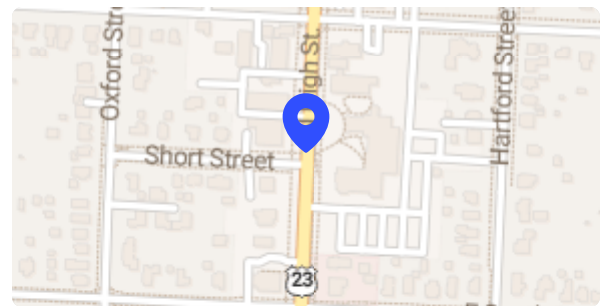
# Events

**Maurice Townsend Casey**

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## Visitation

- Sunday**, January 8, 2023
- 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET
- Worthington United Methodist Church**  
600 North High Street, Worthington OH 43085



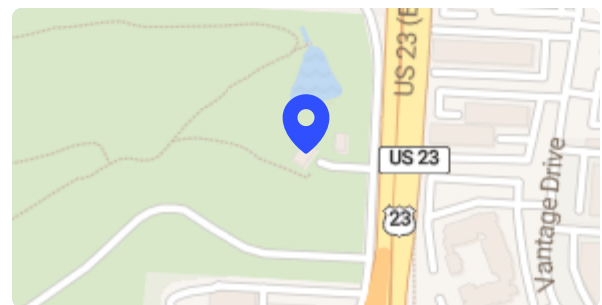
## Memorial Service

- Sunday**, January 8, 2023
- 3:00 PM ET
- Worthington United Methodist Church**  
600 North High Street, Worthington OH 43085



## Celebration of Life

- Sunday**, January 8, 2023
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET
- York Golf Club**  
7459 North High Street, Columbus OH 43085





# Tribute Wall

**Maurice Townsend Casey**

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**Joel Ensign** posted:

Maurice WAS AN ABSOLUTELY FUN DIRECTOR who moved his hands and his baton to where it was an art

February 28 at 4:33 PM



**John Boehm** posted:

I'm saddened of the passing of my friend MAURICE CASEY. I had been out of touch for quite some time and only learned of his passing when I read about it in The Choral Journal. Our musical paths crossed through Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony Chorus. I had the privilege of teaching at the High School Choral Camp at OSU, and participating in a conducting master class at OSU with renowned conductor Eric Ericson of The Swedish Radio Choir. The ultimate collaboration was when "Casey" asked me to join the OSU Alumni Choir (14 voices) to participate in the first Asia Cantat festival in Japan as the only professional choral group from the USA! Colleen, I've thought about you many many times since meeting you in the 1980's. I can hear your dad calling you "squirt" with great affection in his booming voice. I have always had great affection for you and your mom and dad for a long time. I'm praying for your strength and the extended family. John Boehm, Atlanta, Ga. Friend

March 22 at 5:26 AM



**Nancy Perrin** lit a candle in honor of Maurice.

I sang in choirs that he directed in his early years at Ohio State. We accomplished amazing things under his leadership. An amazing musician and educator who I will always remember.



January 27 at 2:23 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Casey family.



January 5 at 2:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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CR

**Cindy Reimers** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Maurice was such a delight. Singing sentences, marvelous humor and childlike glee with that deep, resonating voice. I'm so glad to have spent time with him in Ohio once for the Presidents Cup at Muirfield. But the very best memories are of playing golf, relaxing on the patio and all of the marvelous "breaking of bread" (and wine!) together in Indio, California with our excellent chef, Barbara (and at fancy restaurants too). I can't wait to hear the music you will lead for me, Maurice, when I meet you again in heaven!

December 27 at 2:39 PM

KP

**Ken And Maggie Peterson** sent a virtual gift in honor of Maurice.



When we first spent the winter in Palm Springs, CA we were introduced to a wonderful couple MO and Barb. After a round of golf they were coming to our house and Maurice asked me if I had Gin in a Blue Bottle. When I told him that I did not he refused to come to our home until I got ESPN and Bombay Safire. Once we purchased these small items we enjoyed friends for life. I have many memories of time we spent with Maurice and Barb. When she called use and told us that Maurice had passed away on Nov 22. All I can think about is that was the day after Barbs Birthdays. We miss PS and we will miss Maurice, but we will see Barb again. We will miss the funny things he said and did with us.

December 18 at 9:22 AM



**Roxanne Irvine** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Our love for Maurice began when we met him & Barbara in 2015 in Indian Palms CC. From day one Maurice was a kind soul who's purpose was to make us laugh and feel at home. We had many visits with him and Barb to and from our places via golf cart. What I will remember the most is how loving he was to all his friends. Always attentive and making us feel welcome. My last memory of him will be from this October at my birthday celebration where he 'conducted' our guests to sing me 'happy birthday'. Even at 90 he never missed a beat. Maurice your smiling face and upbeat personality will be missed dearly

December 11 at 7:27 PM



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GR

**Gary Racey** posted:

We miss Maurice already! Those of us who sang in his choirs or choruses can't help but think of him during each Christmas Season! His music was integral to the Season and his Presence was part of the Celebration- it always will be for his musical friends! Yet, Maurice was never a snob about music: Seconding son-in-law's Andy's tale of Maurice 'ThePolarBear' of York Golf Club, Barbara and I had the treasured experience of waiting in the meadow at Big Sky, MT during a driving thunder squall like you only see 'Out West' for over an hour with Maurice and Jane so that we could all enjoy Montana Rose, a favorite of Jane's, followed by 'WILLIE NELSON In Concert'! Soaked to our skins, swaying to 'Blue Skies Do I See'! We still have the souvenir T-shirts somewhere! Who else do you get experiences like that with?'Casey Cabin' along The Gallatin River is the treasured memory of a life-time, and we haven't even mentioned the trout fishing or the hot tub!

December 6 at 12:58 PM

BR

**Barbara And Gary Racey** posted:

Maurice combined extraordinary abilities as a musician, teacher, coordinator, conductor, and friend. As we remember with gratitude the blessings of our years as family friends, choir members and aficionados of Cantari, we also celebrate our memories of his beloved wife Jane, and send our deepest sympathies to his treasured daughter Colleen and her dear husband Andy.

December 6 at 11:31 AM

AW

**Andrew Wildman** posted:

Two stories : What I know from knowing Maurice Casey. Besides the obvious kind hearted, humorous, well known in the music profession...I am glad he decided to stop his membership at OSU golf course & decided to come join York Golf Club around 1995.(I would have also never met Colleen.)Two stories...He had the fever for golf. In the dead of winter he would be one of the few out playing, cold, snow, wind...would not keep him away...that is what earned him from the golf shop the nickname of "Polar Bear."Story 2: You could set your watch every Wednesday at 12:20 PM. He would show up & golf after his usual lunch with old friends at a nearby restaurant. ...Proud to have been his son-in-law. Andrew B. Wildman

December 5 at 4:50 PM

RM

**Renee G Mitchell** January 8 at 1:23 PM

Thank you for streaming Maurice's memorial service. For those of us who were unable to attend in person, thank you for sharing this beautiful tribute to a Maurice. If only I could be at the York Golf Club to hear the "rest of the stories." Rest in peace, Maurice. You leave us with fond and happy memories. Renee from Montana



# Media

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**Cindy Reimers** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 27 at 2:39 PM





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**Roxanne Irvine** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 11 at 7:27 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Maurice by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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