



Roger W. Mason

October 28, 1927 - January 20, 2012

Roger W. Mason, age 84, passed away January 20, 2012, at the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg, MO. Roger was born in Wellston, MO, October 28, 1927, to Grover and Emma Laeunah (Swanson) Mason and was the youngest of six boys. At age four, he was handed a guitar and thus began his musical career. Joining the army immediately after high school, Roger was assigned to the Special Services Soldier Shows and entertained the occupation troops stationed in the European Theater. Following his service, he attended Central Methodist College and received his Bachelor's in Music Education. Higher education pursuits included his Master's of Music Education from UMKC in 1970 and an Education Specialist Degree in Aviation Safety from CMSU in 1982. He met his wife of 61 years, Shirley Stewart, while attending CMC. They were married December 26, 1950, in Webster Groves, MO. They had four children: Roger (Millie), Rich (Lynda), Susie (Leslie), and Ron. In addition, they had six grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Ron; one great grandson, Bennett; his parents; and his five brothers. His teaching career began in 1953 in the Blue Springs school district as band and choir director. In 1968, he moved to the Lafayette County C1 school district in Higginsville where he was director of music for nine years. After retiring from his career as a music educator in 1977, he pursued his love of flying and became an assistant professor in the Department of Power and Transportation at CMSU where he taught for the next 14 years. After retiring, Roger and Shirley moved

to Columbia, MO, and were members of the First Presbyterian Church where he sang in the choir. He was a man of many hobbies which included music composition, sailing, gliding, gardening, and baking. He is survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and cousins, all of whom will miss his warm smile, great humor and loving presence.

A celebration commemorating Roger's life will be held Feb. 18, 2012, at the Salem United Church of Christ in Higginsville, MO, from 1 to 4 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. followed by a reception in the fellowship hall. This will offer an opportunity to share stories or memories about Roger's life with friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Veteran's Assistance League, 1300 Veterans Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093 (660-543-5064 ext. 226) www.valwbg.org.

Arrangements: Hoefler Funeral Home, Inc. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.hoeflerfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Mason was band director for me, and my two brothers. He gave all of us a life-long appreciate and passion for music, and was an incredible inspiration to us. An unforgettable teacher and generous soul.*

Gary Giessmann - October 29, 2024 at 07:29 PM



“ *Roger W. Mason*

October 22, 2023 at 02:42 PM



“ *Roger W. Mason*

October 07, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ *Roger W. Mason*

October 06, 2023 at 07:00 AM



“ *Roger W. Mason*

January 31, 2023 at 02:49 AM



“ *A dynamic and incredible teacher. Know he will be missed, but is still discussed positively whenever our class gets together. He will not be forgotten soon.*

Mike Barron - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

JM

“ Sorry to hear about Rogers passing. I will always remember his smile and laughter. I always looked forward to his presence at the CMSU aviation reunions. It was a joy to know him.

Jim Mellor - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

DK

“ We are so sorry to hear of Mr. Mason's passing. He was a caring and inspirational teacher that left us with many warm memories. Our prayers are with you.

Dwayne and Valerie (Dieckhoff) Kile - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

PR

“ Our most heartfelt sympathy to the Mason family. It is truly a sad day to lose "The Leader of the Band". What a marvelous concert is happening where Roger is with him conducting the music!!!

Pam Rogers - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

MI

“ Thanks for a lifetime of wonderful memories. "Without music, life would be a mistake" - Nietzsche

Michael - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

SF

“ I can't begin to share all the memories I have with Roger at school. I was a new P.E. teacher when I moved to Higginsville and his band classes were on the stage in the gym. We had a blast! Stay strong and know Roger impacted MANY lives with his wit, talents, and respect for all...he will be missed.uwicb

Sarah Jane (Leech) Famuliner - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

LS

“ Am very saddened to learn of Roger's passing. He was the finest instructor I had in college as well as a fine human being.

He brought love and enthusiasm to his subjects and as a group I think we regarded him with something close to reverence.

This world is a poorer place without him in it and if there is another world it will be richer.

Lem Shattuck - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

CP

“ I have very fond memories of Mr. Mason. He introduced me to playing the flute and learning so much about music and the choices it offers. I participated in choir and had the lead in "Brigadoon" as Fiona.

This was BSHS 2nd musical after "Annie Get Your Gun". Mr. Mason gave so much extra to the students. God bless your family.

Please notify me of the services so I may send notice to several in my class that feel the same way. 816-229-4746

Carolyn "Hackley" Pittsenbarger - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

JP

“ Many fond memories of your father and family return to me at his sad passing. My sister, Debby, and I used to babysit for the family since we lived 1 block away. Mr Mason was my music instructor since the first time I picked up a saxophone. Please be comforted by the many lives he touched. Jenny Ploeger Tyler

Jenny Ploeger - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

JW

“ For a couple of years in high school (BSHS Class of '68), I probably spent more time with Mr. Mason than I did with my family. As accompanist for the choir, percussionist in the band and marching band, and at the piano for Kix Choir and Kix Band, I benefited from Mr. Mason's musical expertise as well as his humor and zest for life. His influence on the kids in Blue Springs is incalculable, and we still remember him fondly. My thoughts are with you. Thanks for sharing him with us.

Jane Wilson - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

FW

“ Mr. Mason made music fun. Some of our favorite classes. Good memories.

Frank & Billie (Wiese) Watson - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

BL

“ From 6th to 10th grade I was one of Mr. Mason's music students. Those are some of the best memories I have from school in Blue Springs. Mr. Mason had a charisma and enthusiasm that was contagious to his students. He made all of us was to do our best. Unfortunately he couldn't give musical talent to some of us. But I always felt he was trying to get the best from me. After I left Blue Springs I went to school in Michigan and joined the band there. It didn't last long for me because the director was just a band teacher, he didn't inspire. Mr. Mason was one of those teachers that could have taught any subject and been great.

Bill Lockhart - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

JB

“ To the family, please accept my prayers and condolences. Mr. Mason was always one of my favorite teachers at Blue Springs High School in the years I played drums under him in the 65-66 and 66-67 school years. He had a great way of getting us to play our best at all times and I will never forget that. Our loss, Heaven's gain.

Jim Beemer - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

AK

“ Mr. Mason was a huge influence on my career and he had such a gift of making music fun. I was fortunate to have him as my band teacher at Higginville from 5th grade through HS. His recommendation for me to attend college at Central Methodist College was pivotal to my musical career and the rest of my life. I have so many fond memories of him in concert band, marching band, Kix Choir, and also at church. I'm so glad he was a part of my life. Thanks for the memories!

Alice (Freese) Kennedy - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

CR

“ My life would not be what it is today, if I hadn't known Roger Mason. I was not a musician but I learned about the love of music through him. Being in his musical groups was all that I needed to survive high school. I always felt like I was truly blessed and that life had a much deeper meaning because of the groups I had the good fortune to be a part of. Thank you, Mr. Mason, for being there for us.

Connie Harkrider Reagan - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

RB

“ What a inspiration He is! His zest was wonderful and will continue to guide the people who knew him for many years to come. We certainly have lost a good one.

Rod Baker - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

WC

“ Many high points in my Blue Springs High School years - class of 66 - were playing, marching, and singing for Roger Mason. He was so very inspiring, funny, hard working, versatile, and a superb musician. Lots of life experiences he was willing to share. Kind man, wonderful family. A life well lived. He will be missed, but remembered.

Will Cook - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

LC

“ Roger was music director at Blue Springs during my years there until my graduation in '59. Through his tutorship, I was proficient enough on my instrument to qualify to play in the Marine Corps field bands and did so for the first six years of my Marine Corps Career. I remember him fondly not only for his musical talent but for his ability to create enthusiasm among students for music and school spirit.

I know his many students will recall fondly their years under his tutelage.

Larry Cook - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

TP

“ Roger Mason was a world class musician. All of us who studied with him were very lucky. I've made my living playing clarinet, and he is the one who gave me my first lessons. My deepest sympathy to all the family of this great man.

Tom Phillips - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

DB

“ To a great music teacher and choir director. I was either in band, or choir in junior high and high school.

David and Kathy (Hatfield) Boice - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

K(

“ *Fondest memories of a much loved and respected music teacher. He introduced me to the flute and continued to challenge, instruct and inspire my playing even to this day. I am so glad to know that he continued to inspire students in other schools and then to lead such a rewarding life when his teaching years were behind him. He will always be remembered by those privileged to have called him teacher and friend. Kris*

Kristina Aitken (Lamm) - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

LD

“ *Mr. Mason was my high school concert and marching band teacher. I have many treasured memories of practicing for concerts and marching in parades, including the American Royal Parade. We wore white buck shoes and had to watch where we were stepping.*

Mr. Mason brought the band together like a family. We cared for each other and spent many hours together. My favorite piece that we learned both for concert and state contest was "Finlandia." I have the CD and listen to it often.

I think most of his band students loved him very much. I know I did.

Linda Dombkowski - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

KB

“ *Roger: I am sorry to hear about the loss of your father. My father passed last year so I can appreciate the feelings you and your family are dealing with at this time. Our prayers will be with you.*

Ken and Cheryl Baldwin

Ken Baldwin - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

EM

“ Mr. Mason was my high school choir teacher. He was not only a great and respected teacher, but, so much fun as well. I don't know anyone who has forgotten him. Who could forget his gray suit and him throwing a cigarette to someone in class who made a mistake in their singing. He called it a "cigarette solo". My prayers for his family and regrets to anyone who did not have him for a teacher or friend.

Elaine Herrington McKarnin - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

JN

“ Mr. Mason put a clarinet in my hands and gave me lessons. He inspired me to be a band director. I modeled his teaching and it was the most fun I ever had. I now give music lessons to my grandkids. Thank you again, Mr. Mason for a lifetime of music and fun.

Judy Thrasher Norfolk - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

BG

“ I signed my very first contract to team with Roger and teach vocal music at Blue Springs High School in the spring of 1957. Unfortunately, the United States Army put in a claim that over-rode that teaching contract. When I returned from the service I signed to teach at Grandview High and while there learned to know Roger and appreciate his expertise and love for music and children. One line I'll never forget . . . Roger had convinced a patron to purchase a harp for the patrons three daughters. They played harp for Blue Springs High and the KC Youth Symphony for many years. Roger's comment, with his mishevous grin was, "You can cover a lot of mistakes with a harp glissando and a cymbol crash!!!" I love you Roger, you were a friend and a mentor.

Bill Grace - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

BW

“ *Mr Mason was my favorite teacher. I was lucky enough to have choir 4 years with him. He made my love of music even better. He taught us with humor and passion. I cannot hear the Hallelujah Chorus without thinking of those of us who sang it with his guidance every Christmas.*

Becky Sauer Wells - July 12, 2018 at 12:54 PM

AL

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. I have many wonderful memories of your family and our 15th street, A street, and B street neighborhood. Ami Lowe Fogle*

Ami Lowe - April 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM

BW

“ *The positive and meaningful influences of this gentlemen were far reaching indeed. When I was in 5th grade, he put the instrument in my hands that I still play to this day. He instilled in me a love of music that I worked hard to pass on to my children. Today, three of them are band directors, a direct link back to the influence of Mr. Mason. I was very pleased when my daughter happened to meet him during her college years at UCM. Later, at her senior recital, she had the honor of debuting an original solo that he composed just for her. Seeing her influenced by him was a proud moment for me. What a fine man. He touched my family deeply, and he will be missed.*

Bill Wheeler - April 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM

TC

“ I have more fond memories of band, choir, and musicals than I can count. Mr. Mason had high expectations, but he was also very supportive and compassionate. I remember him even shedding a few tears one day when our symphonic band played a composition by a friend of his flawlessly. You cannot have a finer compliment from your director than that. My best to his family. Tim Coleman

Tim Coleman - April 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM

CB

“ Being in Mr. Mason's band at BSHS was hard work and a joy. I sometimes think of the sweet, brief hush that would fall on us all in the room after playing a piece and knowing it was well done. We laughed a lot with Mr. Mason. He was a wonderful teacher.

Claudia Baker - April 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM

MH

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family. Mr. Mason was always smiling when I saw him in the High School halls. I still remember that smile and the pleasure of seeing his smile as we met in the halls. He was a kind and cheerful man. Thank you Mr. Mason for all those smiles.

Michele Brooks Hendrix - April 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM

DB

“ Mr. Mason was a great flight instructor and a mentor to me in the early 1980's. He helped me make good choices that shaped my career in the aviation industry. His enthusiasm for soaring was, well, contagious. I have so many wonderful memories and all of them make me smile. I am sorry for your loss, and I hope it comforts you to know what joy he brought to so many students at CMSU.

Dana Bain - April 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM

DL

“ *What a wonderful teacher! He made music fun and memorable. When he left BSHS, it seemed like the spirit went out of the school. We missed him very much, and it's good to know that other students experienced the same caring, funny teacher we were so lucky to have at BSHS. Thank you for being a part of our lives.*

Dee Ann Lowe - April 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM

MH

“ *After I learned of Mr. Mason's death I looked through old pictures and found one of me and Mr. Mason, probably taken after a band concert in Blue Springs in 1953 or 54. I have very fond memories of my music time with Mr. Mason. I know that you, his family, have wonderful memories also to keep him close.*

Margaret Cooper Holmberg - April 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM

LP

“ *Mr. Mason was the most wonderful memory I have from high school from choir, marching band, and concert band. He always had a great smile and I used to love to see his forehead go back when he heard sour notes. I remember practicing in marching band by marching through all the streets of Blue Springs just to get ready for the American Royal Parade and others. He always made everything fun no matter what. I'm glad to hear he had such a fulfilling life because I think he was missed by all who came in contact with him. He was one of a kind!*

Lois (Bamman) Purvis - April 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM

DD

“ I am so sorry for your loss.
I was Mr. Mason's student teacher in Higginsville during the Fall semester of 1971. What an inspiration he was. I learned so much from him. He will be greatly missed. Thanks to his wonderful guidance, I am now finishing my 40th year as a band director.
Dean Davison

Dean Davison - April 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM



“ It has been a long time since we were together last, but still remember our friendly neighbors across the street. So vividly remember Roger "belting" out a song one evening. His voice carried well. We have video of the kids having a parade around your house one day. Really cute. We extend our sympathy to the Mason family. God bless you in your sorrow.
The family of Greg & Wilma Spartz

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January 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM