



J. Richard Szeremany

October 14, 2022

Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany

Of Monroeville, PA., on Friday, October 14, 2022. Born the son of Julius R. and Mae F. Szeremany and brother of Adrienne M. Szeremany/Auguste. Richard grew up in Union, New Jersey and at an early age moved to Maplewood, NJ where he was raised and educated in the Maplewood-South Orange School System. Following graduation from Columbia High School he attended the University of Rochester's prestigious Eastman School of Music, majoring in organ, piano, and choral studies. Following graduation from Eastman, he attended Bloomfield College and Seminary in Bloomfield, NJ, where he became the Director of Music, teaching courses in both the College and Seminary and leading the college's touring choir. Following graduation from Bloomfield and ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Morris and Orange he became Pastor for seven years of the Ampere Parkway Community Church in Bloomfield. His next parish was the Munn Avenue Church (First Presbyterian) in East Orange where for the next twenty-two years he ministered as both Preaching Minister/Head of Staff as well as Organist/Director of Music developing a program of outreach, education and community services recognized by the denomination as well as funding organizations, local agencies, and the State of N.J. In 1988 he became Pastor and Musician at Newark's Second Presbyterian Church for the next nine years followed by a sixteen-year ministry as Director of Worship, Music, and the Arts at Pittsburgh's East Liberty Presbyterian Church (the

Cathedral of Hope) where among his many innovative programs he founded in 2000, the Hope Academy of Music and Arts. Szeremany's education continued following graduation from the seminary at The Juilliard School and Union Theological Seminary in New York City as well as at the Princeton Seminary where he pursued both theological as well as musical advanced courses. In addition to his "home base" parishes, Szeremany pursued a concert career as organist, pianist, professional accompanist for more than sixty years playing well over twelve hundred recitals and concerts. He worked with the American Guild of Organists as National Chair of its Committee on Professional Concerns, as well as serving as Dean of the Metropolitan NJ Chapter of the AGO. His recording career includes seventeen organ recordings of hymn improvisations in what is called "The Szeremany Collection", recorded on a number of significant East Coast instruments. Richard was married for forty-six years to Muriel McEvoy Szeremany who predeceased him in 2011. There will be no visitation, and he will be interred in Newark, N.J. Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany, the founder of Hope Academy at: E.L.P.C. Hope Academy, 116 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. 15206. Arrangements entrusted to the GENE H. CORL FUNERAL CHAPEL INC., MONROEVILLE, PA.

Tribute Wall

RM

“ We are saddened at hearing this news. Richard blessed our lives with his presence. May his memory always be a blessing to all who knew him. Thank you, dear friend. You will be missed! - Rob and Beth Marrow

Rob and Beth Marrow - October 21, 2022 at 12:04 PM

MG

“ I had the great pleasure of meeting Dr. Reverend Szeremany a few years ago. Such a kind and generous person. And a wonderful friend to Stevens Institute of Technology.

Michael Governor - October 21, 2022 at 12:02 PM

GM

“ Richard was a dear soul, skilled musician, generous mentor, friend, and an angel among us. I want to thank Richard for gifting me ELPC, the space and the people, where I could cultivate my singing and meet the most wonderful friends in the choir. Richard gave me my first professional job out of college, he created singing opportunities for striving artists, he built community, he was both musical and playful, he performed our marriage ceremony, and he was always the first to send us an anniversary card every year! Thank you, Richard, for the many ways you impacted my life, and the lives of so many others. May you find peace, rest, and beautiful music. “Happy New Year!”
Sincerely, Gail

Gail Novak Mosites - October 21, 2022 at 10:48 AM

BB

“ I had the pleasure of singing in the ELPC Chancel Choir during the last couple years of Dr. Szeremany's leadership and he was always ready to push the boundaries of what organ music and choir could do. I will always remember when he had us perform Ralph Vaughn William's "A Sea Symphony". Was an incredibly huge project to put together but it came out beautifully and that is still one of my top favorite singing experiences in my life. Rest in Peace, Richard. You left your mark on us all. - Bonnie Bogovich

Bonnie Bogovich - October 17, 2022 at 08:40 PM