



# Gerard Nicholas "Nick" Pool

JUN 21, 1931 - NOV 23, 2010



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## Gerard Nicholas "Nick" Pool

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Gerard Nicholas "Nick" Pool, born June 21, 1934 Lincoln Park, NJ, passed away on November 23, 2010 in Muskegon. Nick, a 1956 graduate of Hope College, worked for Gordon Laughead Piano Co. in Grand Haven for a few years before going to Germany, where he earned a Klavierbaumeister (master piano builder) certificate in 1961. He returned to the United States and worked as a prolific musician and freelance keyboard technician throughout the region until his retirement in 2007. A dedicated steward of the arts in West Michigan, Nick supported numerous organizations including the West Shore Graphic Arts Society and was actively involved with the Community Concert Board and the Muskegon Museum of Art, among many others. Nick's interests also included collecting antiques, from toys and toasters to a number of Edison phonographs and disc music boxes. Nick also was an active member of the Chicago Oriental Rug and Textile Society, a group that treasured his encyclopedic knowledge of oriental rugs. He also belonged to the Piano Technicians Guild, which he served in various capacities through the years. Nick could play practically any tune by ear and though he may have forgotten the name of a former customer, he never forgot the make and model of their piano and what its malady had been. He was very interested in politics and never shied away from expressing his opinion on current events. He is predeceased by his parents, the Rev. Gerard C. Pool and Elsa Lillian Schmid Pool and a daughter, Katrina Pool. He is survived by his former wife, Ellen, and children Andrew (Kathleen), Sarah, and Ann Olson (Tom) as well as four grandchildren and brother Tom Pool (Nadine) of Evanston, IL. A MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, November 27, 2010 and VISITATION will take place 2-4 and 7-9 PM Friday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1006 Third St., Muskegon). In lieu of flowers, memorials in Nick's name can be made to WBLV - Blue Lake Public Radio or to the Muskegon Community Foundation Nick Pool Performance Arts Fund.



## Tribute Wall

**Gerard Nicholas "Nick" Pool**

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**Anonymous** posted:

Hello Ellen and Family~Some of my early Muskegon memories are of being at your home, Katrina an infant, and having dinner, with Nick showing us some of his magnificent old instruments. Nick was a brilliant mind, piano technician and truly unique person. My dad, John Dragone, a displaced New Yorker, and Nick became piano technician pals. Nick coached Dad in becoming a piano tech, offered his shop so Dad could rebuild our old Weber grand (which only became a project after Mom put down money on a Chickering grand for John Jr. and I!). I also refinished a piano at Nick's store in my pause from college, but I wasn't the personality for such loner work! Nick and Dad were certainly characters! My thoughts and blessing are with all of you. I hope you are all well and happy. Much love, Christina Dragone##imported-begin##Christina Dragone##imported-end##

December 7 at 4:03 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

We spoke to Andrew yesterday at Nick's memorial services. What an inspirational experience it was, especially the music and Andrew's special tribute. Jim is a fraternity brother and classmate of Nick's and was contacted by him even when he was in the army. Nick was the Chaplain's Assistant and looked Jim up and entertained him at Fort Knox, Kentucky. They had participated in the ALL-College Sing at Hope College with Nick directing the fraternity chorus! What a beautiful memory! They sang, "Stout-hearted Men"; and they were and are! Andrew, please send us a copy of your beautiful words via email, if it is not too much trouble. (We are sure that Jim helped him with some of the pranks; and another song they did was "The Impossible Dream" and they both achieved it! We love your father! Blessings, Jim and Marilyn Klyn Galer##imported-begin##Jim and Marilyn Klyn Galer of Grandville and Manistee, Michigan##imported-end##

November 28 at 1:49 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I've known Nick for 35 years, ever since I moved into the Keyboard Shop in 1975. Soon thereafter, Nick moved into the back of the shop and we shared the kitchen, the garden, good friends, and good times. Nick would play everything from Scott Joplin to Chopin on the Steinway Grand in my livingroom. Our friends would gather round, drink a few, maybe burn one. Nick was a colleague and a co-conspirator in all things Muskegon - politics, music, arts, invention, and innovation. He was an enormous talent in West Michigan, an historian extraordinaire, a man of great character, and one of the most brilliant persons I've known. Nick Pool was truly a Renaissance Man and a man for all seasons. He will be missed both as a friend and as an inspiration to Rochelle and me. Our sincerest condolences to Sara, Ann, Andrew, Ellen, and the rest of Nick's family. Rochelle and I are both saddened we were out of town for the memorial service.##imported-begin##Peter Sartorius & Rochelle##imported-end##

November 27 at 10:08 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

We were Knickerbocker friends at Hope College. I am a year older and was a class ahead of Nick. We both played the baritone horn, and he sold me his horn, and I still have it. Nick was a marvelous musical person. He was planning to reprogram the bell chimes at the college chapel to play a nursery rhyme. Only ran into Nick a couple of times in all these years.##imported-begin##Donald L. Bussies of Jenison, Michigan##imported-end##

November 26 at 11:58 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

My sincere condolences to Ellen and the family during this time of loss. May you all find comfort in God the Father, and the peace that surpasses all understanding through our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace and love to all of you.##imported-begin##Kevin C. Barnhill##imported-end##

November 26 at 9:04 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I knew Nick since the early 1960's when he was living in Grand Haven. He frequently visited my family at the cottage at Spring Lake and home in Grand Rapids. I gained a world of information about pianos, player pianos and music rolls over many years and even just days before his passing. He was a great tuner/technician and a long time friend who always had my interests in mind . I'll miss him a great deal.##imported-begin##Bill Burkhardt##imported-end##

November 26 at 8:20 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I first got to know Nick when he married Ellen. I was one of Ellen's choir students at the time. He was such a gentle soul, soft spoken and enormously talented. He played the organ at my wedding, making the small affair seem so wonderfully regal. I have seen him off and on over the years, and each time was such a joy. He will be missed.##imported-begin##Kathryn Morency Schrader##imported-end##

November 26 at 6:11 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

Nick was one of the first people I became friends with when I joined the Piano Technicians Guild in 1998. He was truly one of my favorite people! He was extremely generous and always enthusiastic about sharing his knowledge. I really enjoyed his dry wit and the fact that he never beat around the bush when sharing his opinion of a piano, or tool, or technique. I learned a lot from him as a beginning piano technician. I moved to Phoenix in 2006, and shortly after I moved, I tuned for a new customer who had moved here from Michigan. In talking about our common roots, I learned that Nick had been her technician when she lived in Muskegon. She and I speak about our fondness for Nick every time I tune for her, and the last time I was there, she gave me a copy of the full-page article about Nick from the Chronicle. I still have the article, and if for some reason Nick's family doesn't have a copy, I would be happy to send it. I will always have very fond memories of Nick, and think of him every time I see a toy piano!--Scott A. Helms, Registered Piano Technician 480-818-3871 tuner@helmsmusic.net##imported-begin##Scott A. Helms##imported-end##

November 24 at 7:10 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Jane and I loved Nick for his kindness and incredible talent...we visited him several times in the recent years, and Nick will be missed tremendously by all those who knew and loved him. Nick suffered tremendously from physical problems in recent years, and never once lost his wit or smile. I was talking with somebody from the Muskegon Heritage Association and bragging about Nick yesterday...as it turns out, on the day he passed. Nick was truly an inspiration, and a dear friend and colleague, who always delighted in assisting the rest of us with technical solutions over the phone to problems he already knew the answers to! We have lost a great, and kind supporter and mentor to the arts. Rick and Jane##imported-begin##Rick Davies and Jane Sytek##imported-end##

November 24 at 5:57 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Gerard Nicholas "Nick" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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