



Paul Montan

August 23, 1922 - March 10, 2018

The celebration of life memorial service for Paul Richard Montan of Wadena will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 24, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena with Pastors Nate Loer and Megan Clapp presiding. Friends may call at Schuller Family Funeral Home's Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena on Friday from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. and at the church on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of services. Paul a member of "The Greatest Generation" was welcomed home by his Savior, on March 10, 2018, surrounded by his family after a brief 20 day illness at Tri-County Healthcare, Wadena, MN.

Paul was born August 23, 1922, in Ironwood, MI, and was adopted by Pastor Nels Oscar and Minnie Alice (Hallberg) Montan; thus began the many miracles that shaped his life. From his father he shared a love for religion and education, and his mother sparked his love of music.

Paul graduated from Sherburn-Dunnell High School in Dunnell, MN, in 1940. He attended St. Olaf College for 2½ years where he sang for F. Melius Christianson in the concert choir. October 22, 1942, Paul enlisted in the military. With ROTC experience, he was offered officer training which he declined. This decision kept him out of the Battle of the Bulge; however, he served in the Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, and Cebu battles.

With WWII over, Paul returned to St. Olaf College where he met Shirley Dahlquist. Within two days he decided she was the one for him. They were married June 28, 1947, in Roseau, MN, with his father officiating.

While at St. Olaf, Paul joined The Honey Dreamers, a vocal group of five from St. Olaf. The newlyweds moved with the group to Chicago where they performed in night clubs, on the Ed Sullivan Show, recorded with Della Reece, and recorded the first Woody Woodpecker song,

In 1952, Paul attended Concordia College in Moorhead to pursue a choral teaching degree. While there Paul sang for P.J. Christiansen in the Concordia Concert Choir. Upon graduation in 1953, Superintendent Ted Tofte from Wadena offered Paul a job that led to 33 years of teaching choral music. He was President of Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) in 1968 and inducted into the MMEA Hall of Fame in February of 1989. In his 31 years of retirement Paul enjoyed golf, reading the Bible, arranging and directing music, singing, and his puppies, Mindy & Misty.

Paul is preceded in death by parents, Nels Oscar and Alice Montan; father and mother-in-law, Carl and Agnes Dahlquist; son Steven Carl Montan; and brother-in-law Raymond (June) Dahlquist.

Paul is survived by Shirley, beloved wife of almost 71 years; daughter Nancy (Jim) King; son Tim Montan; brothers-and sisters-in-law, Tom and Nancy Harris, Darrell and Judy Borgen, and Harry and Mary Peyerl; along with a host of neighbors, friends and grateful students.

Burial will be held at a later date in the Hope Cemetery, Roseau, MN.

Military honors will be provided by Elmer Goche Post 3922, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wadena, MN.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 23. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482

Celebration of Life

MAR 24. 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena
403 2nd St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Visitation

MAR 24. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena
403 2nd St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Paul Montan*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 21, 2018 at 08:51 PM

TG

“ *My sincerest condolences, Nancy. RIP Mr Montan.*
Tom Gerszewski

Tom Gerszewski - April 08, 2018 at 05:17 PM

DW

“ *Debbie Wright lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan*



Debbie Wright - March 23, 2018 at 10:22 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Montan.*



March 23, 2018 at 02:07 PM

LM

“ I should have written this before Paul died so he would know what an important place he has in my heart and life. When he sang at my father’s funeral in 1976, I think I told him he had had a profound influence on me, but that may be revised memory speaking. I just hope I did.

I remember him as a lean, quite dashing figure. Handsome, and always in a suit or sport coat, dress shirt and tie, he was the only professional person we knew who sported a mustache. He was a good instructor and an excellent conductor, and generous in sharing his expertise. The music we sang under his direction is part of my DNA.

When I was a high school senior I organized a junior choir in our church, but needed help in learning to conduct. I had watched Paul conduct for several years and was able to copy some of what he did, but when I asked him for help he immediately passed on a little brown book on conducting that I all but memorized. His encouragement made me brave enough to give it a try. My junior choir did well and I’ve had a taste for conducting ever since. In college I was the first student asked to conduct a piece in our baccalaureate, and since I’m an English major that was a highlight for me. Since then I’ve directed church choirs in Vermont and Ohio and had great fun doing so.

I’m thankful to have had such a mentor, even if he didn’t know half of what how he opened my mind to the joy of music.

*Lenore Leaders Marken Class of ‘57
Avon Lake OH*

Lenore Marken - March 23, 2018 at 06:21 AM

JM

What an unbelievable man! Most of my high school memories revolve around the choir and band in Wadena. He was a true inspiration and his choirs reflected his personality and perfection. They were great choirs. I still remember the records we recorded. Would love to listen to them now. He inspired me and I'm sure had something to do with me making All State Choir in '68. His expressions while conducting were priceless. He was a mentor, friend, and I'll never forget him or being in his choirs.

Jim Matthiae - March 24, 2018 at 07:05 PM

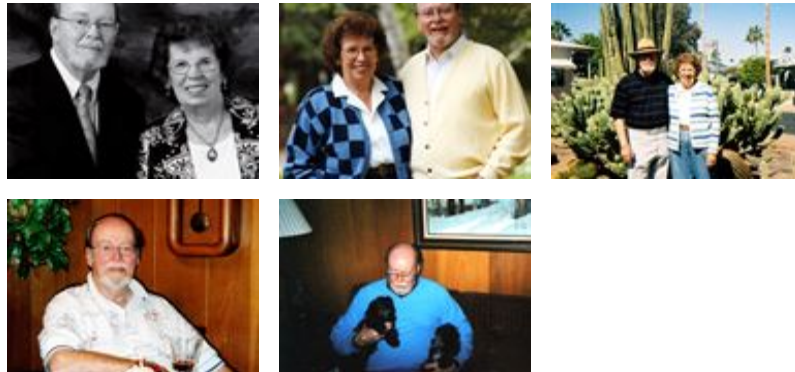
SP

“ *Mr. Montan was a kind teacher and human being. Our WHS was blessed to have a music teacher like Mr. Montan. I enjoyed his talents as a music teacher. I still remember it all and seems like yesterday. Many fond memories. Thanks Mr. Montan. May the Lord be with you all. Sandi "Brust" Pratt*

Sandi "Brust" Pratt - March 22, 2018 at 10:34 AM



“ *41 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 21, 2018 at 07:38 PM

MS

“ This quote was on FB today. It seems fitting.

Why We Teach Music

Not because we expect you to major in music;

Not because we expect you to sing all your life;

Not so you can relax, not so you can have fun;

But so you can be human. So you will recognize beauty. So you will be sensitive. So you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world. So you will have something to cling to. So you will have more love, compassion, gentleness, good - in short, more life!

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?

"The Choir Project"

3/18/2016

Merrilee Overmoen Sullivan "62"

Merrilee Sullivan - March 20, 2018 at 08:44 PM

PF

“ *Mr. Montan was one of my favorite teachers. I always enjoyed choir because of him. I happened to sit next to him at the dedication of the new middle school high school after the tornado. It was great to reconnect with him as an adult. As an adult I could appreciate his sense of humor even more! He now sings with the heavenly angels. My deepest condolences to his family. God bless you Paul Montan.*

Patty (Theisen) Fortier

patty fortier - March 19, 2018 at 07:33 PM

JC

“ I always enjoyed sharing memories of high school and church with Paul whenever I was visiting in Wadena. He was a fun and inspiring man. My sympathies to Shirley and family
Joyce Lundell Crozier

joyce crozier - March 19, 2018 at 10:41 AM

AS

“ Paul helped make me a better singer and "Beautiful Savior " was a favorite solo part for me, along with the choir background. Sorry to hear of his passing. A wonderful leader. Alyce Burrows

Alyce B. Sartino - March 18, 2018 at 10:30 PM

VM

“ Mr Montan had the ability to make each one of us feel talented and necessary to our choir! My very best high school memories are times spent in his class. At my graduation, as we sang Beautiful Savior, I remember the tears in Mr. Montan's eyes. He truly cared about us! My sincere condolences to his family.

Vicki Maroney Munson - March 18, 2018 at 12:07 PM

JM

“ Jan Mohs lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Jan Mohs - March 17, 2018 at 03:51 PM

SK

“ *What a great man! Mr. Montan made my Jr high school experience extra special. Thank you for the great memories!*

Skip - March 16, 2018 at 11:20 PM

YK

“ *Mr Montan inspired his students to have a love for music and to develop their talents and from reading other comments to go on and make a career in music. He was my favourite teacher and I loved choir and though having another piano teacher, I also took piano and voice lessons from him and was offered a small solo. His passion and knowledge of music was evident in Music Appreciation class. His warm smile, humour and incredible patience during choir practice (where sometimes the class would be unruly) would bring everyone around to always strive to bring the best out of every performance.*

A true gentleman and beautiful person who had such a positive influence on so many, he will be sadly missed and deepest sympathies to his entire family and hope you find comfort knowing he was much loved by his students.

*Yvonne Kroening
Class of '77*

Yvonne Kroening - March 16, 2018 at 10:10 PM

DC

“ *Paul was the one that sang at our wedding back in 1969. He was a very dear teacher, friend and he will be missed.*

Diane Crabb - March 16, 2018 at 09:37 PM



“ Mike Ortmann lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Mike Ortmann - March 16, 2018 at 07:59 PM

SB

“ Sharon Boline lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Sharon Boline - March 16, 2018 at 12:32 PM

TF

“ Lite a candle for Mr. Montan. I remember him walking down the hallway at school and how I looked forward to his class.



Tammy Fredrickson - March 16, 2018 at 08:38 AM

CS

“ Char Schloeder lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Char Schloeder - March 16, 2018 at 07:34 AM

DS

“ Dave Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Dave Schumacher - March 16, 2018 at 06:00 AM

VT

“ Mr. Montan you will be missed. He was a great teacher who made music a beautiful place to be. I will miss his wonderful smile with a welcoming hello whenever you saw him. Now you are in the heavenly choir and singing like never before
Vickie Thompson



Vickie Thompson - March 16, 2018 at 04:30 AM

RN

“ Rania (Steinkraus) Neels lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Rania (Steinkraus) Neels - March 16, 2018 at 12:01 AM

PL

“ Peggy Larson lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Peggy Larson - March 15, 2018 at 11:53 PM

JE

“ *Judy Erdahl lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan*



Judy Erdahl - March 15, 2018 at 11:52 PM

VI

“ *Vickie lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan*



Vickie - March 14, 2018 at 01:44 PM



“ *Mr. Montan was an overall wonderful teacher. He loved what he did and it showed every day. His famous "Igor" walk was one of my favorites. Certain songs are stuck in my head from my choir days such as Carol of the Bells. Heaven will be full of fun and song!*

Kim Andrie-Quincer - March 14, 2018 at 10:15 AM



“ *Condolences to Shirley, Nancy and Tim. What wonderful messages sent by his students and friends. Clearly, he was a beloved teacher and mentor. May the good memories sustain you.*

JoAnn and Tim Ryan

JoAnn Ryan - March 14, 2018 at 09:39 AM

MM

“ *Marge (Schwartz,) Mohs-Harrison lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan*



Marge (Schwartz,) Mohs-Harrison - March 14, 2018 at 01:31 AM

MM

In school choir, we knew we did well, when he gave us a big smile and a nod of his head

Marge (Schwartz,) Mohs-Harrison - March 14, 2018 at 01:34 AM

DH

“ *Deb Haraldson lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan*



Deb Haraldson - March 13, 2018 at 10:26 PM

JS

“ *Jill Stevens-Becker lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan*



Jill Stevens-Becker - March 13, 2018 at 08:07 PM

KL

“ Kelly Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Kelly Lorentz - March 13, 2018 at 08:05 PM

DT

“ Dave And Norie Trout lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Dave and Norie Trout - March 13, 2018 at 06:38 PM

MZ

“ Mr. Montan was the reason I graduated from high school. Class of 1974. I loved being in his choir. Often choir class was the reason I came to school. He thought I could sing and asked me if I would sing a solo! He made a young girl who felt like she was nothing, feel like she was something. God bless you, Mr Montan. I still love to sing so I'm expecting that I will be singing again some day under your direction in our Lord's choir. Rest in peace.

Michele (Dickey) Ziegler - March 13, 2018 at 04:52 PM

JA

“ Joanne Klunenberg Andrade lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Joanne Klunenberg Andrade - March 13, 2018 at 03:21 PM

JW

“ An extraordinary human being!! Imparted the love of music to so many. A progeny and advocate of the Christiansen style of choral singing. A member of the often-called “Greatest Generation,” serving his country during a time of greatest need. AND MY TEACHER. (AND MY MENTOR though I didn’t realize it until years later...) Rest in peace, my friend; heaven’s arms are open and Earth is better for people of your caliber.

Joe Wallevand - March 13, 2018 at 12:55 PM

RJ

“ My condolences to Mr. Montans' family. I loved his sense of humor and directness. He was the first conductor I really ever played for...and 40 some years later, I am still playing for university choirs and opera companies. He touched my life and really was huge in directing where my life was going to go...very grateful for Mr. Montan.

Robin (Hedstrom) Jensen - March 13, 2018 at 11:51 AM

DJ

“ Paul Montan "allowed" me to participate (I wouldn't call it singing) in WHS Choirs and because of this helped me to greatly expand my enjoyment of music...and...have a good time doing so. His students benefited much from his sharing. Let's all hear it for Paul Montan!

Doug Johnson - March 13, 2018 at 10:38 AM

Alan Schumacher

“ Alan Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Alan Schumacher - March 13, 2018 at 09:11 AM

DM

“ *Many of my favorite memories of high school are of choir and band. We were blessed with the musical abilities of Mr. Evenson and Paul Montan. Paul inspired many voices including mine. I send a prayer to his family.*

Delores Braun Monical

Delores Braun Monical - March 13, 2018 at 08:21 AM

BG

“ *Bob & Donna Grendahl lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan*



Bob & Donna Grendahl - March 13, 2018 at 01:18 AM

JT

“ *Mr. Montan was a terrific teacher who brought music to so many people. My thoughts and prayers go with his family. 🎵. Jill Olafson Thompson.*

Jill Thompson - March 12, 2018 at 10:30 PM

EP

“ All the way back in my memory, Paul Montan was a great neighbor the entire time I lived in Wadena growing up and going to school. A true friend to my family, from our early years in the Merickel apartments on 5th Street SW, to both our families' move to the Hosmer addition on the south side of town, he was always there. But of course more than that (and I know I speak for so many many students who were lucky enough to have him as a choir director and a music teacher), his musical knowledge, talent and passion for performance, wit and humor, made him one of the most inspirational teacher in that whole ear at Wadena High. So great was his conducting and choice of repertoire, he was admired by other music educators throughout the state, and the Wadena choir always scored big in contests. A mentor to all of students who loved music, we used to hang out in the choir room whoever there was free time during the school day or after school. He talked to us kids as people, never down to us, and we often asked him to relate the old stories about his great college mentor, F. Melius Christiansen, and his time singing with his professional vocal quintet, The Honey Dreamers in front of the Big Bands in Chicago and elsewhere. The Honey Dreamers recorded records, appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, and recorded with Della Reece, and Paul would give us the inside back stage scoop on the singing stars. For me personally I have to say Paul Montan was THE most inspirational teacher I had (and that is not to slight the many other great teachers we had in those days)... but for me he was the best. He was a major influence in my going on to have my own music career. And every time I came home over the years it was great to walk across the backyard and talk to him and catch up. What a great life lived! My deep condolences to Shirley, Tim and Nancy. Thanks, Paul!

Eric Peltoniemi - March 12, 2018 at 10:18 PM

SB

“ Shirley, Nancy and Tim, I am so sorry to hear this. I so enjoyed visiting with you guys. He was a great guy with an amazing sense of humor. I was not then and am still not musical but that did not make any difference to him. Blessed be his memory!

steve babcock - March 12, 2018 at 09:29 PM

GC

“ We considered Paul a great friend. Paul and Charlie enjoyed their golf.



Gladys and Charles Chase. - March 12, 2018 at 09:21 PM

CG

“ My love for music and singing was cultivated in Mr. Montan's choir. I'm grateful to have had his encouragement and leadership. His sense of humor made singing so much fun under his direction. My condolences to the Montan family.

Carol (Macklanburg) Gross

Carol Gross - March 12, 2018 at 08:49 PM

MC

“ I will forever be grateful to Mr. Montan for encouraging me to try out for All-State Lutheran Choir. Without his advice and direction I wouldn't have made it. Many great memories all due to a love of music! Thank you Mr Montan. You were a great guy! My heart felt sympathies go out to the entire family.

Melanie (Amundson) Crunden

Melanie (Amundson) Crunden - March 12, 2018 at 08:04 PM

JB

“ *Mr. Montan was a kind hearted teacher with a wonderful sense of humor. I still get those choir songs stuck in my head. Thank you Mr. Montan.*

julie bolt - March 12, 2018 at 06:52 PM

 Mark Freer

“ *I can't begin to say how grateful I am to have known him. His smile and gentle direction have inspired me to this day! Amazing stories..... Mark Freer*

Mark Freer - March 12, 2018 at 05:44 PM

LS

“ *Lea And Mike Snyder lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan*



lea and mike snyder - March 12, 2018 at 05:01 PM

ML

“ *To the Montan family. So sorry to hear about the passing of Paul. Loved his jokes and always smiling. A wonderful teacher and a voice for music for man in the state for numerous years. He always said to me in class when I was talking too much.." Larson, If I want any crap from you I will put a quarter in and flush" A great funny line from a great funny nice Man! Thanks for such great memories. He will be missed. ..Sincerely,...Mark Larson along with Maren & Krista.*

Mark Larson - March 12, 2018 at 04:36 PM

DT

“ I didn't take the opportunity to try out for Mr Montan's choir and spared him from having to coax music from my voice. Fortunately, I got to be around him when he began playing golf and learned what a sweet man he was and a fine gentleman. I will always appreciate how kind and respectful he was to me.

Dean Tibbetts

Dean Tibbetts - March 12, 2018 at 04:02 PM

LW

“ Thank you, Mr. Montan, for accepting me into choir when I thought I didn't know how to sing. It was a great experience with many wonderful memories.

Leslie Werden - March 12, 2018 at 03:33 PM

DS

“ To the Paul Montan Family: My condolences on the passing of Paul. Always a dapper man with a deep passion for vocal music. Visiting with Paul was always a pleasure. The heavenly choir now has a new beautiful voice. Dan Sartell

Dan Sartell - March 12, 2018 at 02:53 PM

M#

“ Members Of Wadena Elks Lodge #2386 lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan



Members of Wadena Elks Lodge #2386 - March 12, 2018 at 01:26 PM

TK

“ *Tammie Klawitter sent a virtual gift in memory of Paul Montan*



Tammie Klawitter - March 12, 2018 at 01:21 PM

SL

“ *A smile that got through every time he passed by so many years ago. God speed, and all my prayers.*



Sher Linnes - March 12, 2018 at 12:50 PM



“ *Jane Erckenbrack lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan*



Jane Erckenbrack - March 12, 2018 at 10:33 AM

PL

“ *Paul was "the judge" who sent me to All State Choir back in 1975. Six years later, when I joined the Staples Area Men's Chorus, Stan Carlson gave me instructions to sit next to Paul. That was the beginning of many years of us anchoring the bass section along with Forbes Martinson, Al Flack, Bernie Nelsen, and others. Every Chorus rehearsal, at the end, we still sing Paul's composition of "A Toast". Here's a toast to you, Paul! Pat Lunemann*

Pat Lunemann - March 12, 2018 at 08:54 AM

JS

“ *Good man - Old Friend _Great Instructor*



Jim & Tracey Stoneman - March 12, 2018 at 05:01 AM

DM

“ *Dale & Liz Miller lit a candle in memory of Paul Montan*



Dale & Liz Miller - March 11, 2018 at 10:28 PM

KV

To the Montan family. We truly loved living across the street from your folks. They were so kind to us and our kids. We are so sorry for your loss.

Keith and Sonja VanOrsdel - March 12, 2018 at 04:27 PM

KC

To the Montan family, very sorry for your loss. Mr. Montan's humor and guidance helped me a lot in high school.

Katie Adams Cross - March 12, 2018 at 08:56 PM

ML

Saddened to hear of Paul's passing. He was an inspiring choir director and a caring teacher. Whenever of church choir sings a Christianson number of think of "Mr. Montan." My sympathy to the family! Mary Lynk

Mary Lynk - March 12, 2018 at 10:19 PM

KS

So sad to hear of this! He was an inspiration to vocal music!

Kathy Foust Spiess - March 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JU

My condolences to Shirley, Nancy, and Tim. Paul was simply one of the best. Amen.

James Uselman - March 14, 2018 at 07:45 AM

JP

A man of great talent who influenced so many people. He gave me a real appreciation for music.

Joyce Braun Perreten - March 14, 2018 at 10:39 AM

BT

What a wonderful man! Enjoyed all the times shared in high school. Still only watched A Clockwork Orange the one time. God's peace to the family.

Beth Topp - March 19, 2018 at 12:23 PM

JH

Paul Montan had a tremendous capacity for seeing students as individuals. He always showed great emotional intelligence, and empathy. You could always talk to him about non-school things. He listened. My thoughts are with the Montan family.

John Hamerlinck - March 19, 2018 at 02:18 PM