

Peter Fichte — College Professor — Band Member from 2009–2016



Dr. Peter M. Fichte, 74, died February 24, 2016, after an illness, at his home in Scranton, South Carolina.

Memorial services, with band and vocal performances, will be at 2pm, August 28th, at the Universalist Unitarian Congregation of St. Johnsbury, VT., officiated by the Reverend Brendan Hadash.

Dr. Fichte was born on June 26, 1941, in Brookfield, Conn., son of the late Erich Fichte and Nora Seelig Fichte. He received his B.A. in Chemistry from New York University in 1963 and later his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from The University of Vermont in 1970. He served as Associate Professor of Chemistry at Nasson College, Springvale, Maine from 1968-83. In 1984, he began teaching Chemistry and Physics at Coker College, Hartsville, S.C. until he retired in January 2007. After retiring to St. Johnsbury, Vermont, Peter Fichte became a member of the Universalist Unitarian Congregation of St. Johnsbury, where he served as moderator for several years.

Peter Fichte was an accomplished musician. He was a member of his junior and senior high school bands and orchestras and played in the New Rochelle (NY) Symphony Orchestra before going to college. He played first chair clarinet in the Florence Symphony Orchestra, in South Carolina, for 23 years. He was personally recruited for the position by Dr. Jack Baker, the former first chair clarinet not only for his gifted talent but also for his compassionate personality. Peter played many First Tuesday concerts in the Francis Marion recital hall with the FSO Woodwind Trio consisting of good friends the late Dr. Roy Skinner and Christine Fisher.

Prior to joining the FSO, Peter Fichte played with a number of community orchestras: the New York University Orchestra, the Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra (during his UVM graduate school years), the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra, and the Danbury (CT) Symphony Orchestra. During this time he also played with the Westchester (NY) Pops Band, the Burlington City Band, and Chandler's Military Band (Portland, Maine). In retirement, he played with the St. Johnsbury, Danville, and Lyndonville town bands.

Peter Fichte is survived by his cousins, Claus (Gerry) Fichte of Youngstown, N.Y., Jutta (Ed) Rheinheimer of Tucson, Ariz., Margaret DiPiazza, Gloria Posecznick, Marian DiPiazza and Martha Piccininni all of N.Y.; special friends, Mary Ann Loughheed of Lake City, S.C. and Dr. Ram Mohan of Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Ill.; and a number of nieces and nephews. The family would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Seif and his nurse Ashley Campbell, RN.