



Bob A. Harris

May 8, 1928 - January 6, 2013

Robert "Bob" Arch Harris, 84, of Carthage passed away 6:15 a.m. Sunday, January 6, 2013 at Integris Baptist Regional Health Center in Miami, Oklahoma. Bob was born May 8, 1928 in Rich Hill, Missouri, he was the son of Arch Harris and Edith "Bailey" Harris. He had lived in Carthage since 1931. Bob served in the United States Army during the Korea Conflict between 1952 and 1955, where he was a chaplain's assistant. He graduated from Carthage High School, Joplin Junior College, he received his Bachelor's and Master's from the Kansas State Teachers College at Pittsburg, KS (PSU) and was awarded a piano teaching certificate before graduating from college. Bob spent 7 summers studying in Juilliard Campus in Aspen, he studied piano with the famed Juilliard professor, Rosina Lhevinne, who taught other famed pianists such as Van Cliburn. He taught thousands of students, Bob loved helping children. He had been accredited by numerous state and national organizations. Bob was a college professor at Our Ladys of the Ozark and MSSU. He played a big role in the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition during its 20 year run. Bob was a judge, listened to tapes for weeks on end from all over the world and did all the research. He was a member of Kiwanis in Carthage and numerous other professional organizations. He retired in 1992 and traveled extensively. Bob was a member at the Carthage First United Methodist Church. Bob was an organist and pianist for over 70 years. He first played in the church in 1939 at the age of 11. Services will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 10, 2012 at the First United

Methodist Church. A Gathering of friends will be in the Fellowship Hall to share memories from 10:00 to 11:00 prior to services. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery in Rich Hill. On line condolences may be sent at www.ulmerfh.com. Arrangements are under the direction of the Ulmer Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

AB

“ I was very sorry to hear of Mr. Harris's passing a few weeks ago. I took piano lessons for many years and even after Mr. Harris joined MO. Southern State University's staff I still continued my lessons. He taught me more than I could ever learn on my own about Music Theory and to this day I still use this knowledge with Music students. He also taught me how important dynamics are to a piece of music and how it can make or break a piece of music as it is played. He WAS and still is the best thing that ever happened to Carthage re the world of music. Carthage was so very lucky that he chose this area for his career. As students, we became better for it and I can honestly say I will never forget what I learned from Mr. Harris. It was a honor and privledge to know him and I am sure Heaven's Choir will sound much better having him play the organ or choir as they sing. In fact, I am sure it already sounds better!

Ann Rogers Balfour - January 21, 2013 at 10:52 AM

DA

“ I was so sorry to hear about Bob Harris' death. I think I was his first pupil in piano about 1947. My sister's teacher, Mrs. Kellogg, couldn't take me and since Bob had been her student, I was referred to him. I still have the Hallmark Cards he gave me as incentive to practice. Many good memories of my first receital at the Christian, I think, Church in Carthage. Looks like he taught a lot of students after me. He was so good at teaching. Peace.

Donna Kay Atkinson - January 13, 2013 at 11:43 AM

TH

“ Was so sorry when I heard of about Bob's passing. Loved taking from him and learned so much that I use to this very day in my piano performance. I started taking my 7th grade year through high school. He was always prepared, knew tons of information about the composer and how to perform accurately what he/she had penned, enjoyed the fact his pianos were always in pristine shape and taught technique like nobody I knew. The list is at least 50 items long concerning his attributes as a teacher. But more importantly to that was his character. What a privilege to have known him and studied with this wonderful man.

Tom Hilton - January 12, 2013 at 11:26 AM

SU

“ I studied piano with Mr. Harris from about 1968-1978 and we kept up correspondence until the past few years. Although I disappointed him by deciding to go into medicine instead of music, the valuable lessons he taught me have remained with me and music is my relaxing hobby. 40+ years later, I can still play most of my piano solos from memory!!

Stephanie (Wehrman) van Ulft - January 09, 2013 at 10:31 PM

JH

“ So sorry to read about Mr. Harris' passing. He was a very talented man. I began studying piano with him when I was 6 (in 1964) and hold have such fond memories of my lessons. Even though my mother was a talented musician; I preferred to walk from our house on Grand Ave. through Paradise alley over to his house on Main St to take lessons... a big deal for a first grader. He inspired me to stick with it through the years and become a violinist as well. For that I thank you. Farewell, Mr. Harris.

Jessica Blanset Hurster - January 09, 2013 at 01:14 AM