



## Darryl Paul Knapp

May 23, 1954 - May 5, 2026

Darryl Paul Knapp, a beloved cornerstone of the Midland musical and theatrical community, passed away on May 5, 2026, at the age of 71. Born on May 23, 1954, in El Paso, Texas, he was the only child of the late Maurice Paul and Janet Barbara Knapp.

Darryl devoted his life to the arts, inspiring generations of students as a piano teacher, mentor, and professional musician. He served as a long-time faculty member at Trinity School of Midland, where he held the roles of Choir Director and Director of Musical Activities. Beyond the classroom, he was a steadfast presence at UIL music competitions, accompanying countless young performers and helping them rise to their best.

His musical gifts enriched the spiritual life of the community as well. As Organist and Choirmaster at St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church for over 20 years, he was admired for his deep liturgical knowledge and his founding and leadership of the church's handbell choir—an ensemble that became a cherished part of parish life. In addition, Darryl served for 22 years as Organist and Music Director at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity in Midland, Texas. His contributions to the stage were equally enduring, serving as Music Director for both the Pickwick Players and Midland Community Theatre, where he shaped productions and mentored performers across decades.

Darryl is survived by his husband, Scot Marter. He leaves behind a profound legacy in the lives of the hundreds of students he taught and the many musicians he inspired throughout the Permian Basin.

A memorial service celebrating Darryl's life and musical legacy will be held at St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church in Midland on Saturday, May 23, at 1:00 p.m., followed by a reception for family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Music Ministry at St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church, in honor of Darryl's lifelong dedication to its musical life and his irreplaceable role as Organist and Choirmaster.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Darryl Paul Knapp.* ”



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May 22 at 04:55 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Darryl Paul Knapp.* ”



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May 12 at 06:27 PM



“ *There's not a lot to add that Sarah didn't already say so I'll just say this: I skipped a lot of classes in high school, but never choir. Mr. Knapp was a light.* ”

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**Jordan W.** - May 12 at 01:01 PM



“ I didn't realize how lucky I was to have Mr. Knapp as my middle and high school choir director at Trinity until much later in my life. The amount of love, care, and inspiration he gave us was unmatched (even though we definitely gave him some frustration as students!) I swore I had a photo somewhere of him at the piano in the choir room directing us, but maybe the visual is just so strong in my memory that I thought it was a photo. Him and his husband Scot were also an amazing example of partnership and love at a time when I was learning how to love myself for who I was. I will forever be grateful to have crossed paths with him, and spent many hours on all our musicals together (he was especially patient teaching us the harmonies for Sondheim's "Into the Woods"). Thank you for everything, Mr. Knapp. As we sang at every Trinity graduation: "May the road rise to meet you, may the wind blow at your back, may the sun shine warmly on your face, may the rain fall softly on your fields, and until we meet again, until we meet again, may god hold you in the palm of his hand"

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**Sarah Serpas** - May 11 at 02:43 PM

PT

“ Darryl was a good friend when I was in the choir at Holy Trinity during my time in Midland in the mid-1980s. Singing with him was a pleasure. A real loss for Midland and for those of us who knew him.  
*Paul Talbot, Dallas, TX*

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**Paul Talbot** - May 10 at 09:04 PM

ME

“ It was always a pleasure to work with Darryl when I visited St. Nicholas'. It was even more pleasurable to listen to him play. I will miss him. Mike & Sue-Ann Ehmer

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**Mike Ehmer** - May 09 at 03:42 PM

CH

“ Darryl, you were so sweet, and I loved getting to know you at Trinity. It just never seemed the same after you left.

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**Cathie Hope** - May 09 at 12:14 PM

DS

“ Darryl was a mentor from a really early age for me. At Holy Trinity, particularly, his choir instruction laid a foundation I've been building on ever since, and the handbell choir he created and fostered was so unique in Midland. I used to love sitting in the back of the sanctuary when he would practice the organ and just let the sound wash over me. However, the Christmas Eve candlelight services he helped to curate are among my most beautiful and profound memories. He was a master of his craft and is carried in my thoughts.

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**Daniel Scott** - May 09 at 11:27 AM

SS

“ Darryl and I had so many years working together at Trinity School with his choir programs and musicals. He was a very dear friend and colleague. I enjoyed our duet recitals where we had a blast playing together. He was so courteous, kind and considerate to everyone. I'll miss you, dear and precious friend. Rest in heavenly peace.

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**Shari Santorelli** - May 08 at 01:36 PM