

## Music is a Forever Gift!

Music is a Forever Gift! Music is a Forever Gift given to children by parents, friends, schools and the community.

Music makes the day go better! It is our companion on a long drive, a way we play with our kids, our entertainment after a long day's work, the excitement of a marching band and the power of a symphony orchestra. We fall in love to music, we dance, we chill out, we mourn our losses and celebrate our joys

Imagine a movie without a soundtrack. A basketball game without a pep band, a worship service without a hymn. Music is everywhere in our lives.

My dad, Ken Pinckney, gifted music to me in all of the ways you've heard about today. What you don't know is that...

- I performed as my dad's 8-year old accompanist. He taught me to chord to *Turkey in the Straw* and *She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain* to his rendition of both tunes on the saxophone
- His High School marching band may have been practicing for their Homecoming Game, however, clearly they were performing only for pre-school me as I watched from our second-floor window
- Imagine a grade-school me, his self-important assistant setting up for City Band Concerts in the park. He surely couldn't have done the job without me.
- As I grew older, we performed together...Dad on clarinet or saxophone, me on piano. He coached my flute performances at music contests, beamed when I performed as a pianist and church organist. He even handed his piccolo over to me in high school to play his signature *Stars and Stripes Forever* solo.

Dad was proud of me and instilled confidence in my ability as a musician.

Playing an instrument is a wonderful thing! Many of you know that, however, you don't have to be a performer to march in the band, so to speak! It is not all about playing an instrument or being a performer....not at all!

My mother, Evelyn Pinckney, has enjoyed music throughout her long life. As a young girl, Evelyn played a bit on her uncle's violin (a Stradivarius violin, some claimed...or hoped!), she read music competently, sang in the church choir and still enjoys sing-alongs today at 101 1/2 years old (but who's counting?)

My earliest memories include:

- Mom singing nursery rhymes and songs with me as a small child. Does anyone remember *Three Little Fishes in as Iddy Biddy Pool?* or, *I Love you, a Bushel and a Peck?*
- Mom sang with us our long drives to visit our grandparents in Mankato and Ellsworth
- She practiced piano with me as a young child and later on insisted that I log in practice hours required by my band director...her husband. This was not such a welcomed gift!
- She sang in the church choir with dad, her friends and me.
- We attended, not only Dad's band concerts, but also recitals and classical concerts at every opportunity
- My mother supported my father in every way as he worked long hours and extra jobs to ensure that there was enough money for our lessons, instruments and education.

Music is magic. It is the fairy dust sprinkled on our daily lives.  
It is a gift that endures!

Thank you all for joining us today. I hope you will join me in thanking all of those musicians, individuals, teachers and communities who have gifted music to you and to me...to my brother, Jim, my sister Jeannie, my nieces Susan, Lindsey and Abigail and now to Evelyn's great-grandchildren, Andrew and Emily

Thank you, Dad. And thank you, Mom for giving me the Forever Gift of music!

*Tribute to Evelyn and Kenneth Pinckney by daughter, Patricia Pinckney at **Playing it Forward: The Kenneth & Evelyn Pinckney Young Musicians' Fund Introduction** on February 12, 2016*