



Fernando Mancillas

October 7, 2021

Fernando Mancillas passed away unexpectedly at the age of 62 on October 7, 2021. Fernando, (aka "Fernie" to his family and friends, was born on February 2, 1959 in El Paso, Texas.

After completing his Bachelor's in Music Degree at the University of Texas at El Paso, (UTEP), Fernie moved to Boston, MA to study opera at the Boston Conservatory, where he earned his Master's in Music degree. He met his wife, Gina, while singing in the choir at Old South Church in Boston. They were together over 30 years, and were married on November 25, 2000 in Kannapolis, NC.

Fernie has been an active member of the musical community in the Philadelphia area for over 30 years. His beautiful tenor voice will be greatly missed.

Fernando is survived by his wife, Gina Teague-Mancillas of Collingswood, NJ; brothers, Jose Mancillas Jr. of El Paso, TX and Arturo Mancillas of Chaparral, NM; sisters, Juliet Sierra of Alamogordo, NM, Maria Estela Gonzalez of El Paso, TX, Leticia Konkle of El Paso, TX and Cecelia Marshall of Hemet, CA. He is predeceased by his parents, Jose P. Mancillas and Belen E. Mancillas. A memorial service will be held at 5 pm on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at the First Presbyterian Church, 101 Bridgeboro Rd. Moorestown, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, please make any donation to the charity or musical organization of your choice.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 6. 5:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-1688
<http://www.fpcmoorestown.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fernando Mancillas*

October 09, 2023 at 03:30 AM



“ *Fernando Mancillas*

November 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *I'm still reeling from the news of Fernie's passing. I spent many hours at Denny's on Mesa, drinking coffee and enjoying his company. We traveled with UTEP Lab Band to Montreux, we worked with the Gilbert & Sullivan company, and he graced my family's home during his apprenticeship with the Santa Fe Opera. He was brilliant, funny, kind, humble. Miss you, Fernie..*

Dan Borton - November 05, 2021 at 02:03 PM

FJ

“ I cannot describe the loss I felt when I read about the passing of my childhood friend on FB one morning as I was getting ready to face the day. I was shaken. I have know Fernie since elementary school in El Paso, TX. We had such good times together at recess. We both joined Orchestra in 5th grade with Miss Ida Chavez as our teacher. We went on to Henderson Jr. High where our Orchestra teacher, Milam Svambera, switched Fernie from violin to bass in 6th grade. He was the best player (and largest) of all of us. I'll never forget the look in his eyes when he finally asked "bass!?" having been told he was going to switch instruments. Svambera shook his head yes to bass after Fernie had named off viola and cello, our teacher shaking his head no to both.

We went on to Thomas Jefferson High School where we played in Orchestra with Svambera and joined Choir and sang under the direction of Miss Ruth Ann Fankhauser, She took us to being one of the top three high school choirs in El Paso at the time. That was something. Fernie and I also played in Mariachi Zorra at TJHS led by Mr. Juan Munoz. That was great fun, especially going to Fernie's house after playing gallos all night for Mother's Day with the mariachi and his mom, Lala, had made menudo for us all for breakfast. Both of us were in the Youth Orchestras in El Paso and had our shot at Texas All-State Orchestra. He made All-State Orchestra three times in Texas! I only made 1st Alternate for All-State Choir.

UTEP was our next stop playing the the Orchestra there and singing in the UTEP Chorale. We both sang in the Gilbert & Sullivan Company of El Paso for many years, first starting in the orchestra pit, then moving on stage to the chorus, and finally obtaining leading roles. So many memories there.

I left El Paso in 1994 and I don't remember when I lost contact with Fernie. Our lives went separate ways. My husband and I did see Fernie in La Fanciulla del West performed by Sante Fe Oera in the '90's. My longtime friend on stage in Santa Fe! I knew he had

moved to Pennsylvania and had gotten married. He called out of the blue just a little over a year ago. He wanted to share a recording of his singing with my husband and I. An email sits in my inbox with that recording still, now to be cherished.

Rest well, my friend, and keep singing till the end of time!

Fred Jewell - October 25, 2021 at 07:48 PM

RG

“*Fernie was my great friend, my compadre, and I was very saddened to learn of his passing. I first got to know him in the late 1970s at UTEP and later in the EP Gillbert and Sullivan Co.*



One year I was directing music for the company under director, Joan Quarm. We did not have enough money for an orchestra and decided to use piano accompaniment. Fernie came to us and asked if he could sing in the chorus and it didn't take long before we were hearing this beautiful tenor voice and, needless to say, he was cast in lead roles ever after.

While in San Diego, I was delighted to welcome him to the First United Methodist Church of La Mesa where he joined us in performing works by Ariel Ramirez as well as solo recitals of art songs and arias. The audiences loved him.

In addition to his vocal artistry, Fernie was one of the funniest guys and funniest comic actors I ever worked with. He was a very sensitive man and very astute when it came to the stage and in his relations with all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

I will miss our conversations; we used to get into some of the most amazing discussions about music, composition and, ultimately, about life.

I will miss you, my brother, and I know that your glorious voice is now singing with the choirs of angels. God bless you, lad. I love you.

Ron Gillis

Ron Gillis - October 17, 2021 at 09:45 PM

JM

“*Ferny was a great comic talent. His deadpan delivery in "The Duenna" and "Die Fledermaus" was classic. Working with him was always a great pleasure. He has left us too soon. My condolences to his family.*

John Moriarty - October 16, 2021 at 04:31 PM