

Sam Martin's Life Story

August 14, 1953 – May 22, 2023

Samuel Clyde Martin of Denver, Colorado, died in his home on Monday, May 22nd, 2023. He was 69.

Sam was born on August 14th, 1953, in Hagerstown, Maryland, to Fanny and Clyde Martin. He joined siblings Dorcas Good, Robert L. Martin, and Victor Martin as the youngest brother. Sam spent his childhood in Maryland, growing up in the Mennonite tradition. He began playing violin through his public school program at the age of ten, which became a lifelong passion.

Sam went to college in Goshen, Indiana, where he received his undergraduate degree at Goshen College in music education in 1976. He studied violin under Lon Shearer, where they built a lasting relationship.

Sam spent five years teaching in Goshen public schools, and after earning a master's degree in Suzuki Violin Pedagogy at the University of Tennessee, moved to Denver, Colorado in the fall of 1982. Sam started a long and successful career as a primary and secondary school strings specialist (grades 5-12) in the Douglas County School District that fall. Two years later, in the fall of 1984, he began teaching strings in Boulder Valley School District, based in Broomfield.

In November of 1988, Sam met Emily Perry, who he declared the love of his life because, as Sam put it, they "suffered from the same affliction" of teaching music. Their first date was at a high school play, starting their life of adventure, humor, and love of performing arts together. They were married on December 26th, 1989, in their home in northwest Denver. They welcomed their son, Moses, on May 21st, 1993. Sam was a loving and dedicated father who would build train sets, shoot rockets, and fly kites with his son. Moses inherited his father's unparalleled visual spatial skills, love of tinkering, passion for music, and do-it-yourself attitude.

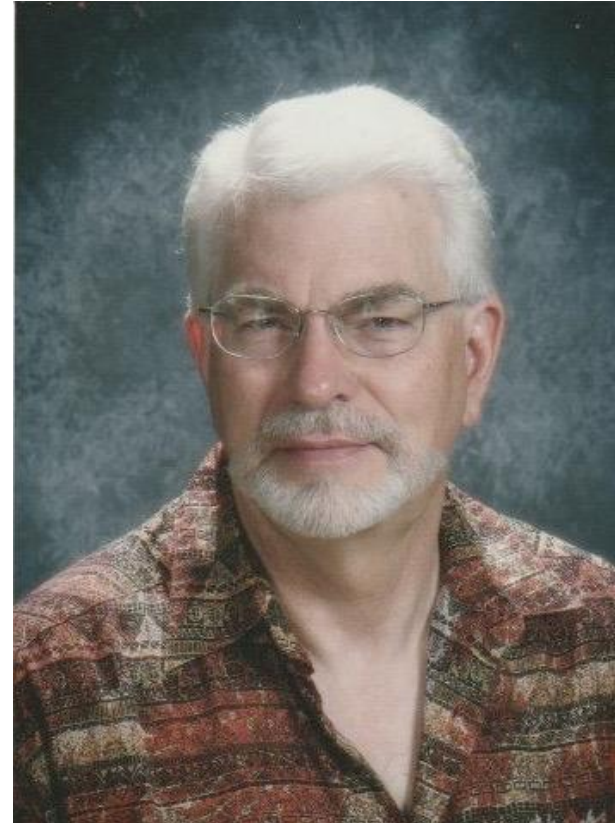
During Sam's career, several of his orchestras auditioned for and were invited to perform at the Colorado Music Educators' Convention in Colorado Springs, the most prestigious award any music group in Colorado can earn. In 2003, his Broomfield High School orchestra traveled to New York City and won the Best Performing Group at the North American Music Festival. His middle school and high school orchestras consistently received Superior ratings at CHSAA competitions. Students loved Sam; they knew innately that they could trust him, confide in him, and reveled in his passion for music and his humor and compassionate support. One student gave him an award from the Broomfield Mormon church, an honor reserved only for teachers highly respected by Mormon students.

Sam will be remembered for his compassion, brilliance, unique sense of humor, fine violin playing, and his energetic drive to accomplish anything—as well as a rock-solid sense of faith in his students.

Sam is survived by his beloved wife of 33 years, Emily, son Moses, daughter-in-law Sarah, grandson Ensley, brothers Robert and Victor, and many nieces, nephews and cousins in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Sam's name to the First Nations Development Institute.

Samuel C. Martin

August 14, 1953 – May 22, 2023



A Celebration of Life

August 26, 2023

11:30am

First Mennonite Church

Denver, Colorado

Pre-Service Music			Reading – John 4:4-14	Victor Martin/Ruth Wenger
Family Processional			Hymn – VT 611	<i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i>
	<i>Come Ye Disconsolate</i>		Sharing (Video)	Al Zook
	<i>Mothering God</i>	Charlie Ferguson		
Opening Hymns			Eclectic Music Meditation	<i>Concierto de Aranjuez</i> Christopher Parkening, guitar
VT 549	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>		Sharing	Sonia Straley
VT 387	<i>We Are One in the Spirit</i>			
Welcome & Invocation		Pastor Glenn Balzer	Hymn – VT 42	<i>Could It Be That God Is Singing</i>
Reading – Psalm 150:1-5		Victor Martin/Ruth Wenger	Eulogy	Emily Martin
Slide Show			Meditation	Glenn Balzer
Special Music	<i>Precious Lord, Take my Hand</i>	Romaine Anderson	Hymn – VT 832	<i>The Lord Lift You Up</i>
Sharing (Video)		Lynn Evenson	Closing Music – Ashokan Farewell	Ann Paulu, Violin
Eclectic Music Meditation	<i>Sunshine of Your Love</i>	Eric Clapton and Cream	Benediction	
Violin and Piano Arrangements:		arr. Jim Clemens	Postlude	<i>Soldier's Joy</i> Edgar Meyer, Mark O'Connor
	<i>Holy Manna</i>		Reception	
	<i>Resignation</i>		Everyone is invited to the Community Center across the foyer for refreshments following the service and to visit with the family.	
	<i>Consolation</i>		The family sincerely thanks you for your presence and your many expressions of encouragement, support, and sympathy. We offer deep appreciation to those who helped make this celebration possible:	
Sharing (Video)		Stan Smucker		
Eclectic Music Meditation	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	arr. Mark O'Connor		
Reading – Amos 5:21-24		Victor Martin/Ruth Wenger		Glenn Balzer, Pastor, First Mennonite Church Louise Cass
Hymn – STS 33	<i>Let Justice Roll</i>			Musicians: Romaine Anderson, Charlie Ferguson, Nicole KandeLind, Sonia Straley, Ann Paulu, Emily Martin
Sharing		Phyllis Tribby		Song Leaders: Sonia Straley, Nicole KandeLind
Eclectic Music Meditation	<i>Turn Back, O Man</i>	from the musical <i>Godspell</i>		Photo collection and presentation: William Lindstedt, Bria Frame
				Reception Coordinators: Linda Wyse, Angie Nofziger
				Sound and Streaming: Nikki KandeLind Sam Miller, Head Usher