



## Wotan M. Zoellner Obituary

December 14, 1906 - October 31, 2005

Wotan Maximilian Zoellner, 98 of 1721 Beattie Rd. died October 31, 2005 at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. A native of LaGrange, MO, Mr. Zoellner has lived in Albany since 1964, where he was a longtime member of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and Vestry member. He was also a member of the Albany Kiwanis Club. Mr. Zoellner along with his wife Dottie owned and operated Zoellner Music Co. in Albany since 1964. Mr. Zoellner was well known in the music and arts community in Albany. Soon after he and his wife opened the music store he was holding meetings in the store to form what is known as the Albany Symphony Orchestra. He served for many years as concertmaster, the principal first violinist of the orchestra. In 1908, at just two years old, Mr. Zoellner's father put a bow in his hand and began teaching him to play the violin. Mr. Zoellner's father encouraged him to practice 8 to 10 hours a day. By the time Mr. Zoellner was four, he had performed his first concert and by age six he was performing Mendelssohn. A few years later he was sent to board with families in Chicago, St. Louis and New York City so that he could receive instruction from some of the greatest violinists, which include the famed Hungarian-born violinist and instructor, Leopold Auer. Mr. Auer taught at the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia. He taught some of the most famous violinists, including Kathleen Parlow, Nathan Milstein and Mischa Elman. In 1929, Mr. Zoellner was in Palm Beach, Fla., entertaining the Rockefellers. It was common knowledge that if Mr. Rockefeller liked what he heard, he'd give the performer a dime. Mr. Zoellner left with a Rockefeller

dime in his pocket that evening. At age 15, Mr. Zoellner's studies were financed for a time by the Rotary Club of Mobile, AL which sent him to compete in New York City where he won the Juilliard Musical Foundation Society music prize of \$1,000. He returned to win the prize again the following year. Newspaper clippings from his younger years attested to his being "unusually handsome" and proclaimed him a child prodigy, "the noted boy violinist" and one of the country's leading players. The next 30 years were filled with performances and accolades. Mr. Zoellner's musical talent led him to New York City's Fifth Avenue studios of NBC radio, where he played live broadcasts for two years. By the early '60s, Mr. Zoellner moved to Pensacola, FL with his three brothers, where they operated music stores for many years. It was there that he charmed his beloved Dorothy a young divorced mother of three and while delivering a piano to Dorothy's home, he was love-struck. The couple soon married and shared 46 happy years together. Mr. Zoellner lived to please his audience, and did just that by performing the day before his death at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. What a wonderful legacy he has left, and will be truly missed by his family, friends, and audiences across this land. Survivors include his daughters, Mary N. Shapard and her husband Tom of Albany, Karen N. Sinderson and her husband Thomas of Rockville, MD, son, William Ernest Nordstrom and his wife Patricia of LaCrescenta, CA, four grandchildren, Ross Nix and his wife Kellie, Ryan Nix and his wife Jackie, Nancy Rojas and her husband Hector, and Edward Sinderson, four great-grandchildren, Chandler Nix, Nicole Rojas, Christine Rojas and Alex Rojas, brother, Max Zoellner and his wife Marjorie of Pensacola, FL, sister-in-law, Carol D. Jones, two nieces, Yvonne walker and Maxine Burke, nephew, Max Zoellner, Jr. Those desiring, please make memorials to St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 70698, Albany, GA 31708.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wotan M. Zoellner Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Wotan M. Zoellner Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Dearest Mary,  
I am so saddened at the loss of your Father. He was a truly remarkable man. My parents got my first piano from him and your wonderful mother many many years ago. I always remember his kindness and great love of music. He will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. With much love,  
Debbi Weldon*

**Debbi Weldon** - November 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ *We will always remember Wotan Maximilian Zoellner as an outstanding violinist, master musician and great humanitarian. He will always live in the hearts and minds of the countless persons who knew him and heard him perform. May he rest in peace. Egbert & Freddie Bacon*

**Egbert & Freddie Bacon** - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Family of the late Mr. Wotan Maximilian Zoellner:*

**Egbert & Freddie Bacon** - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Dear Mary, I just read online about the death of your father. I am praying that God will give you the peace and comfort that only He can give. I know that you will miss him. Give my love to your "boys" for me.

Darlene Adams

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**Darlene Adams** - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ What an honor to have known such a gifted person! My sympathy to the family.

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**Peggy Lawrence Thomas** - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

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**Peggy Lawrence Thomas** - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dear Dottie and all of the Zoellner family...please accept my sincere sympathy in your loss of Wotan. My name is Joyce Watson, formerly Joyce Hernandez, from Pensacola. I studied violin with "Papa" and later with Wotan. Because of the fine training I received from both of these men I continue to perform and teach. I will forever be grateful to Wotan for his encouragement and willingness to work with young musicians and share his tremendous gifts. I have many fond memories of Wotan, the Youth Orchestra, Wotan as a soloist with the Pensacola Symphony and many hours spent in the caring environment of Zoellner's Music House in Pensacola. Thank you all for the positive influence you have had on my life. I will work hard to continue Wotan's legacy of teaching others the joy of music.

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**Joyce Watson** - November 03, 2005 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Our sympathies to all the family. We are sorry we could not be at the Memorial Service, but we are too far away. We both feel it was such an honor to know both Wotan and Dotty. Barry worked with them for quite a while and thought so highly of both of them. They were good to us and always a joy to be with. Barry has many fond memories of Zoellner Music and those years when we "baby sat" Bill and Mary once or twice. God bless you all. Our hearts are with you on this day.

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**Glenda and Barry Beall** - November 03, 2005 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ I am an "on-line" friend of Glenda and Tommy Franklin. Glenda has shared her story of Mr Zoellner's performance of "Ave Maria" before he passed on. This is truly a touching story as this piece of music is very special to me because my dad loved it also. The way Glenda described him playing this on the violin, I could almost hear and see the beauty of this most magnificent gift.  
How blest you are for having one of God's greatest creations touch your lives through Mr. Zoellner and his music.  
I am honored that Glenda has shared this remarkable person with her on-line friends. God Bless, Sylvia

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**Sylvia Garcia/San Antonio Tx** - November 02, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Mr. Zoellner was such an inspiration to so many people. I can remember the first time I heard him play at Morningside. He has truly touched thousands of lives, and he will be truly missed.

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**Joan-Marie Barcus** - November 02, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *He was such a great man and will be deeply missed. Deepest sympathies to the family.*

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**Molly Brock** - November 02, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *Although Wotan will be sadly missed by us here on earth, I am sure his work is just beginning to train a heavenly chorus of violinists in musical excellence, so his very best concerts are yet to be heard. My sympathy to the family.*

*Janice Jordan, piano/organ teacher*

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**Janice A. Jordan** - November 02, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Mary, Ross and Ryan; I am sorry for your loss. I know the coming days will be hard but with the Grace of God you will be able to get through those tuff days. You and the rest of the family are in my prayers.*

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**Rita Cline** - November 02, 2005 at 12:00 AM

FC

“ *We have enjoyed Wotan's playing so much over the years. Our prayers are with all the family for your loss and Albany's loss.*

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**Florine & Don Curran** - November 02, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *What a joy and a privilege to have known this great man. We have known him since we both moved to Albany in 1964. Both Dottie and Wotan meant so much to us when we were at St. Patricks and our days were brighter through the years each time we met. I visited Dottie in Dawson, and she was not concerned about herself but about Wotan. Our prayers are with you, his family, and our thanks for sharing your parents with this community. Everything about him was God's Love Shining. Jackie & Tom Driggers*

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**Jackie & Tom Driggers** - November 02, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ *We've been gone from the Albany area for years, but I'll never forget Mr. Zoellner. He was a very kind man and wonderful musician. My Dad bought my first acoustic guitar from him in 1964, when I was 12 yrs old. His store was on Oglethorpe back in those days. He will be missed.*

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**Bill Turner** - November 02, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ *Having lived in Pensacola for most of my life, the name Zoellner is well known and respected. Even though I am not acquainted, I wish you all my sympathy in the days ahead. Bless you all.*

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**Sandy Knight** - November 02, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ *I first met Mr. Z about 1964 when I was 20. I was an original member of the Albany Symphonette and as a result, came in contact with him quite often. As a fellow violinist, working with him was wonderful to me. He gave me so much help with my playing. While I've not seen Mr. Z in many years, he has always help a special place in my fondest memories.*

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**Bonnie Jefferson** - November 02, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *All at Morningside will miss Mr. Wotan's beautiful music. It was a great pleasure to have known such a wonderful and kind person.* ”

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**Marlene Godwin** - November 01, 2005 at 12:00 AM