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A Tribute to Taylor Carroll Sinclair

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When you enter college, you enter a world that is entirely unlike most experiences you have had throughout your youth. Half of the world drags you into adulthood with expectations and responsibilities you had never even previously thought possible; the other half digs your heels into the quickly eroding sands of adolescence. This tension, whether we recognize it or not, can lead to moments of extreme joy while we celebrate our accomplishments, but can just as soon bring uncertainty in our moments of self-doubt.

In these beautiful and tense moments, we realize how critical our friends, family, peers, teachers, and mentors become to us. In my own personal time at the School of Music, I was fortunate to regard Taylor Sinclair as all of those things—a talented musician, gifted teacher, insightful mentor, and sincere friend.

For me, Taylor Sinclair will continue to represent the absolute best parts of that time in my life while also being a model of what it means to be a teacher and a mentor to our students here in the Mary Pappert School of Music.

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**Remembering Maureen Budway**

When students come to the Mary Pappert School of Music, they expect to have teachers who will shape and mold their future careers. What they received from Maureen Budway was a teacher who shaped their lives and built their spirits. Those who had the opportunity to study with her before her passing on January 12, 2015, will always remember her for her dedication to their success.

Maureen joined the faculty of the Mary Pappert School of Music in 1986. She quickly established herself in the department not only as a jazz voice instructor, but also a very versatile classical instructor. Since then, she imparted years of experience and expertise to her students, both in the classroom and on the bandstand.

Troy Centofanto, Director of Music Admissions, commented that, “Maureen embodied the true spirit of Duquesne. She loved the students, and she loved to teach.”

Longtime friend and colleague, Patricia Donohue-Burns added, “Her students adored her. Maureen had the ability to connect with them in a way that just made them better singers.”

In addition to her work as an educator, Maureen was an active performer. She has been featured in many of the Duquesne Jazz Ensemble concerts, pancreatic cancer benefit concerts with the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, and she was a regular at Jazz at Andy’s, to name only a few. She had just finished recording an album called “Sweet Candor” with her brother, pianist David Budway, as well as flutist Hubert Laws, trumpeter Sean Jones, and guitarist Joe Negri.

Mike Tomaro, Professor of Music and Chair of Jazz Studies at Duquesne, shared a deep connection with Maureen. “I will miss everything about Maureen. School, the bandstand, and my heart will never be the same. Thank you, Maureen, for all the beautiful music and love you gave to all of us...”