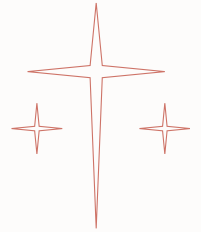
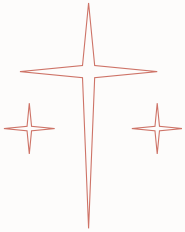


IN LOVING MEMORY



CHARLOTTE ADAMS

Sunrise December 5, 1943

Sunset November 28, 2024



Celebration of Life



Charlotte Adams

February 20, 2025

PRELUDE/GATHERING MUSIC – Cheryl Saborsky, organist

FAMILY PROCESSION

GREETING AND WORD OF GRACE – Pastor Jeff Rainwater

Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and I am life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live,
and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.
I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
I died, and behold, I am alive forevermore.
Because I live, you shall live also.

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God,
and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of Charlotte Adams.

We come together, remembering a good life,
Even while feeling her absence from us.
May God grant us grace, that in all seasons of our lives
We may lean into a grace that leads to life,
And even in death, we may find resurrection.

PRAYER

Eternal God,
We praise you for the great company of all those
who have finished their course in faith
and now rest from their labor.
We praise you for those dear to us
Whom we name in our hearts before you.
Especially we praise you for Charlotte Adams,
Whom you have graciously received into your presence.
To all of these, continue to grant your peace.
Let perpetual light remain upon them,
And help us so to believe where we have not seen,
And bring us at last with them
Into the joy of your home
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN - It is Well With My Soul - UMH#377

SCRIPTURE READINGS – Psalm 23 & Psalm 121

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
- 3 he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

SPECIAL MUSIC - *Crossing the Bar* by Gwyneth Walker

Young Voices of Colorado Signature, Jena Dickey, director Kimean Wibbenmeyer, accompanist

WORDS OF WITNESS

Sandra McCarty, sister
Laura Hartman, cousin
Chrys Harris, friend

SPECIAL MUSIC - *Flight Song* by Kim André Arnesen

Creek 21, Adam Cave, director Amanda Draheim, accompanist

REFLECTION on CHARLOTTE'S LIFE - Rev. Jeff Rainwater

REMEMBRANCE THROUGH IMAGERY

CLOSING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION - Blessing by Katie Moran Bart - Kimean Wibbenmeyer, accompanist

Wendy Sue Grover, sign language
May the road rise up to meet you;
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sunshine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.
Until we meet, my friend, again,
May God hold you
In the palm of His hand.

POSTLUDE – Cheryl Saborsky, organist

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
- 8 The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.





Memories



“

I have so many memories of course, but one that stands out is when I attended one of Charlotte's choral concerts. One of their performances was *Crossing The Bar*.....it was stunningly beautiful and I will never forget that experience.....

”

Sandra McCarty - Sister

“

I remember the first time I had a conversation with her as an adult in the early 2000s. We connected over politics. I felt so seen by her. I had recently gotten political and needed a political soulmate and kindred spirit. I'll bet most people she knew felt her nonjudgmental listening, felt that kind of kindred spirit feeling with her.

At family reunions I see her around the piano. I didn't know how famous she was in the choral world until later in life. Sandra so proud of her, and if we got any information, it was from Sandra, Charlotte's "cheerleader." Charlotte deflected: "I was in the right place at the right time," she said. She said it was "fun to listen to a tone in music and say, ooh, that's awful, let's fix it" (with a backscratcher!) We heard she had a backscratcher and would say the pitch needs to be "up here not down here."

And then she added: "In some respects, I knew how to fix it" (unpretentious! humble!)

She and Sandra talked about the two songs *I Thank You God* and *Crossing the Bar*.

"Can hardly conduct it without crying," she said. Not knowing much about music, I understood what a deep passion she had for it.

The cousins would always say she hid behind her mother's skirts. She went from hiding behind her mother's skirt to singing and conducting. She said it was the "music. The score was there, and it had to be brought to life." For us, she was a magnet to the Adams family pianos, carrying on the tradition from her mother and other relatives of singing around the piano. We built up like a coral reef around her and opened our throats—and sang! Many of us never sang in our other lives. She could read music and get Uncle Jack, Mom, Gary, Karen...Jay, Davis, Sara Kate, Lilly, Janey, and Aunt Louise singing *Oklahoma!*, *With a Song In My Heart*, and hymns....

Charlotte showed up for reunions and for my mom's 70th birthday in Florida, not easy all the way from Denver, and had long conversations focused on me and Bill, not just the cousins she'd grown up with. She was inclusive.

I can still see Charlotte's laugh lines and dimples, her naturally curly hair, her eyes understanding and twinkling at me through her small glasses. I can see her laughing hard as the Adams are and were wont to do.

Chocolate covered cherries will always make me think of Charlotte. And we connected over cats. I will think of her as Sandra's "dear precious little sister," as she called her. As one of the "young cousins," as my mom thought of her. I will think of her laughter, I will see her looking over her glasses at the music, singing while she played the piano, her great posture, the way she smiled with her whole face, Mom, Gary, Uncle Jack, Aunt Evelyn singing around a heavenly piano. And Aunt Tootsy, Uncle GC, Aunt Jurhee, Uncle Dick guffawing with laughlines and dimples as big as spaceships all around.

”

Laura Hartman - Cousin



Photo Gallery



Memories



“

My husband, Gary Adams, talked often about Charlotte in glowing terms, clearly proud of his sweet and accomplished cousin. He told me that when he toured parts of Europe after graduation from college in 1966, he and his travel companion, Jeff Blair, met Charlotte somewhere and had a wonderful but brief visit while she was also over there. I've forgotten exactly where they met, but the get-together was planned ahead of time and enjoyed thoroughly.

I heard about many fun family times growing up when Charlotte, Sandra, Gary, and Judy enjoyed playing with each other, with the big sisters taking good care of the little kids. Water skiing adventures, vacations at the family farm, and visits to Gary's home in Ardmore stood out as exceptionally great family gatherings in which he spent quality time with Charlotte.

Like Charlotte, Gary enjoyed a meaningful career in music, so he and Charlotte had a special bond through that connection too. He was very proud of her professional successes and loved hearing about all she had experienced. When she came to the East Coast on two occasions, we traveled from our home in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley to hear her performances and watch her direct the choirs: in Williamsburg, where she brought her high school choir to sing, and in D.C. (or northern Virginia?), where she was a clinician for an all-state choir convention. She had complete control of the groups in both cases, providing a musically and technically excellent performance. It was clear that the groups were extremely well-trained and prepared. They also sang with pride, joy, pleasure, and confidence.

I once mentioned Charlotte's name to a friend of mine in Virginia, Julia White, who was the founder and artistic director of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir, and she knew Charlotte by reputation, calling her the "Warm-up Queen," in reference to the wonderful warmups that Charlotte created and published for singers. These musical selections are, apparently, widely used around the country, and Charlotte was a celebrity in musical circles. Gary and I loved knowing that!

I loved Charlotte's energy, humility, musical interests and capabilities, and her smile, and I was so glad that I married into the Adams family and got to know her. She was an inspiration and a treasure and will be missed greatly!

”

Mary Kay Adams - cousin



Memories



“

All of us have memories of Charlotte being at many of our Adams Family Reunions with her sweet personality and her amazing smile. I have two special memories that stand out in my mind...

One was in 1977 when I was a student at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. I was getting ready to perform in a choral concert one evening, when all of a sudden in walks Charlotte! She was home visiting her parents, found out about the concert, and decided to come! I was so thrilled to have her there, but also a bit intimidated knowing what I knew of her amazing musical studies and career! The second memorable event I shared with Charlotte was in 2005. We were having a family get together in Edmond, which she was able to attend. At this time, my family was hosting an exchange student from Germany. Our student was ecstatic when he realized that there was someone there who could fluently speak his language! Charlotte was so kind to take the time to converse with him for quite a while! It was fun for all of us to listen to as well!

I have always known that Charlotte was an exceptionally talented and lovely person. But those two incidents confirmed to me just how lovely she was!

”

Janey Sloan Myers - cousin

“

Charlotte! Sweet, kind, adventurous, giving, talented and fun!

We have such fond memories of her playing the piano with all of the family singing along. So much laughter and joy!

”

Meredith Harris - cousin



Memories



“

Charlotte and I met in 1966 in Munich. We were the only Americans living in a YWCA girls residence. We both shared a love of the German language, travel adventures, music, skiing, and cute guys, not necessarily in that order. Among our many adventures was a trip to South Africa in early 1967.

There's Charlotte riding an ostrich. We also rode a sweet donkey in Lesotho. The final photo shows us back in the States later that year getting ready to go to graduate school.

We remained fast friends throughout our lives in Denver, and didn't miss an opportunity to converse auf Deutsch. I loved her curiosity, her wit, and her true joie de vive.

Auf Wiedersehen, liebe Freundin.

”

Phoebe Busch - Friend



Memories



“

One Saturday morning a little girl I hadn't know before, rolled up on her bicycle in my front yard. She proudly said "Look, I have a brand new bicycle!" I was amazed by the color combination of blue and yellow. Charlotte said: "Do you want to ride it?" I said, you bet! So Charlotte sat on the handle bars while I wheeled her around the block! When we stopped she showed me how the bike's horn worked. When Charlotte pushed the button, instead of a beep-beep sound, it started quacking like a duck! You guessed it! The first Donald Duck bicycle made in 1948! Thus at five years old... began our life-long friendship!

”

Rex Booth - Lifelong Friend



Memories



“

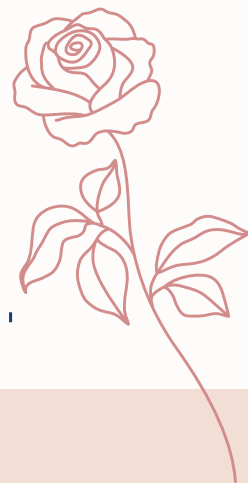
Charlotte Adams was a blessing for her singers and for choral conductors who were fortunate enough to know her and to hear her choirs. Those of us who were able to work side by side with her were especially blessed. Charlotte was a champion for the women's choir. Hearing and seeing her performances was a game changer for me, as I know it was for countless other conductors. At the heart of her craft was the development of a beautiful and elegant vocal sound. She combined that signature sound with an amazing depth of expression to create stunning performances. Thank you so much, Charlotte Adams!

”

Paul Smith - Fellow Choir Director



Memories



“

Charlotte Adams is a Cherry Creek, Colorado, and National icon. Her accomplishments at these levels are demonstrated by her Girls' 21 recordings that can be found in college-level Choral Methods texts, her leading Girls' 21 to appearances at CMEA and appearances at both Regional and National ACDA Conferences around the country. She is respected by choral conductors around the state and nation at the high school and college levels. A person like Charlotte comes around only once in a lifetime and I have been blessed to have known her and work with her at Cherry Creek High School from 1989-2003.

Charlotte's knowledge of the voice and creating the unique tone and artistry, especially in Girls' 21, put her in the national spotlight. Her video, "Daily Workout for a Beautiful Voice" made it's way around the country and around the world. What I gleaned from her while observing her rehearsals and in our many conversations is something I'll always treasure. It made me a better choral musician. Truly.

Charlotte loved to laugh and did so at many of the silly, simple jokes told by her colleagues. She was a joy to be around and a joy to work with. Her influence continues to resonate in her former students and her many colleagues near and far. Brava, Charlotte Adams. You are a light in the artistic lives of us all.

”

Bill Erickson - Fellow Choir Director



Memories



“

Charlotte Adams meant so much to me. My lasting music career couldn't have been possible without all that I learned from her. I can still see her smile and delicate hands while she stood on her tippy toes conducting Girls 21.

I'll cherish the gift she gave me for a lifetime.

”

Cathy “McKay” Griffin - 1984 CCHS Graduate

“

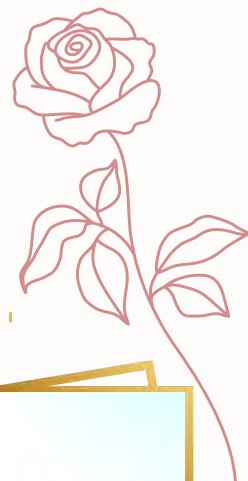
How do I write in only a few sentences the influence that Charlotte Adams has had on my life? As a member of Girls' 21, I got to travel abroad and experience a true sisterhood of friendships that remain to this day. Ms. Adams taught me how beautiful a treble vocal ensemble can sound, and I have continued using her techniques with my own choirs and students. Perhaps the best part though, is that I got to know her better in my post-secondary years, and spend time with this truly gifted, and more importantly, sincerely sweet woman. Thank you, Ms. Adams, for accepting me as a singer into Girls' 21, and for giving direction to my career and vocation.

”

Stefanie Fiser Kleven - CCHS Graduate



Memories



“

Girls' 21 was formative. I met my friend Gia after we were voiced next to each other as sophomores. I also met my husband, Justin, through choral events. Remarkably, we all continue to sing together now, nearly 40 years later! I owe the joy I've found in singing, the love of being in a choral community, and meeting those who would be with me for life to Charlotte.

”

Cari Levi - CCHS Graduate & CO Women's Choir

Memories



“

Every day with Charlotte was amazing. She could turn a mundane trip to the store into an exciting adventure, and it always had to end with a large ice cream with her partner in crime, Neil!

Charlotte, Jena, Neil and I went on so many vacations together, she was the best friend and companion anyone could wish for.



It was an honor to take care of her in her final years and even through those “foggy” times she taught me so much about life. She knew her memory was failing and, in her quiet way, taught me so much of her family history so that I could keep the memories of people she loved especially Sandra and Davis alive for her.

”



Chrys and Neil Harris - Friends & Caretakers

“

I will always remember Charlotte saying that she was “nothing but a big pair of ears,” and we all chuckled, of course, as although humorous (like she always was), it was absolutely true. She could mold a sound like nobody’s business, and when she got the blend she wanted, she could stretch the longest, most beautiful phrase ever. Those of us who had the opportunity to study her art or sing under the direction of her sensitive hands wept at the beauty. Rest well, sweet friend, and if the angels’ phrases need shaping, raise your hand and volunteer.

”



Jena Dickey - Fellow Choir Director & Friend



“

Charlotte was not only a cherished colleague but also a dear friend. Our years working together on the Cherry Creek campus and later with the Colorado Women’s Choir were filled with inspiring music, meaningful collaborations, and unforgettable travels. I learned so much from Charlotte—her wisdom, kindness, and dedication to choral music left a lasting impact on me and so many others. It was a privilege to nominate her for the CMEA Hall of Fame, an honor she so richly deserved.

”

Margie Camp - Fellow Choir Director & Friend

Photo Gallery



Charlotte Adams



I give you this one thought to keep -
I am with you still - I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift, uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not think of me as gone -
I am with you still - in each new dawn.

