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MacCALLUM, Deborah Ellen

April 29, 1952 - December 16, 2010

Deborah MacCallum, dear friend, cousin, colleague, mentor, violist, and violin teacher, passed away Thursday, December 16, 2010, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was 58 years old.



Born in Berkeley, CA, Deborah was the only child of Gerald Cushing MacCallum Jr. and Paulette Naomi. As the daughter of a philosophy professor, Deborah traveled extensively and lived in many places throughout the States as well as in England and Spain. After attending Prescott College in Arizona, Deborah continued her love of learning, international living and adventure by attending a French immersion school in Switzerland, living in a kibbutz in Israel, working with Outward Bound, motorcycling the southwest and Mexico, traveling to Hong Kong, and hitch-hiking around the country via private aircraft.

Landing in beautiful Santa Barbara, Deborah studied at UCSB and SBCC, worked at a bank, her own house cleaning business, and as a mail carrier in Santa Barbara and briefly in Hawaii. She eventually returned to her first love, music, enthusiastically studying viola under the instruction of Donald McInnes. She proceeded to create a career in music that would influence and encourage many young violinists in Santa Barbara. With immense zeal for her students and her work, she traveled the world seeking out great teachers from Ithaca, NY and Julliard School, to Austria, Canada, and Russia. In addition to her successful private studio, she taught viola and chamber music at SBCC and Westmont College and was a founding member of both the Classics IV String Quartet and the Westmont Faculty String Quartet.

Deborah was keen at seeing talent and encouraged others to pursue their dreams. Her students excelled under her tutelage and many are competition and prize winners. Her generous spirit touched and inspired all who knew her. Deborah loved God and believed in Jesus as her Savior. Deborah leaves behind her four cousins, her closest friends, friends at Los Banos Pool, kind neighbors, musician friends near and far, and all her many students.

A memorial service celebrating Deborah's life will be held on Sunday, January 16, 3:00pm at the Free Methodist Church in Santa Barbara. Donations may be made in Deborah's memory to the Music Academy of the West, The Music and Arts Conservatory, and Serenity House.