



Gregory B. Piontek

August 8, 1954 - November 11, 2016

Age 62, died peacefully on November 11, 2016, at home, surrounded by his family. Greg was born on August 20, 1954 in Buffalo, NY and is survived by his father, Richard J. Piontek and siblings, Richard F. Piontek, Daryl M. Piontek and Laura Piontek Harper. He is further survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives and many friends. Greg graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Composition from SUNY at Buffalo. He had a long and distinguished career as a performing artist and educator in the Buffalo area. He was an Adjunct Professor at Buffalo State College, ECC and Villa Maria College and mentored several students privately. He is known as one of Buffalo New York's best jazz bass/jazz Rock Fusion artists, playing locally for over 45 years. He is well known in music circles of all genres as his career included performances with many well known musicians and groups locally and in New York City. Previous bands he performed with include Dinosaur, Gamelon and Rodan. His longest engagement of over 25 years was with the Jazz Example at the original Anchor Bar in Buffalo. A Memorial Celebration will be held at a future date to be determined. His family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations are sent to Hospice Buffalo

Tribute Wall



“ July 17, 2017

I just found out my good friend and fellow musician has passed away. The last time we played together was at the old Brass Palm Tree on Hertel ('86). That band was Al Tinney, Carl Corwin, John Bacon Jr., , Greg and myself. We had fun that night, the band was hot. How could it not be with that rhythm section? I remember Jeff Jarvis came out to hear us, he was still in town.

Greg, John and I formed Dinosaur, an improvisational trio back in '79 or '80. John came to us through Greg's recommendation (from UB). John and Abdul Rachman were the best drummers I have ever played alongside. Greg was always an inspiration, a fine composer and a fine string player on basses, cello and Chapman stick. Greg was also a fine person with integrity and honesty. We played everything and tried everything, we all wrote for the band. Most people thought we were weird but we didn't care. We had to play and nothing could stop us. We played for practically nothing at times (sorry to say). I left Bflo in late '86 and never returned. I'm very sorry I never had a chance to play with Greg again. We shared many special musical moments together as only musicians can understand.

To all his family and friends I wish belated condolences. I miss him. He was such an excellent musician and a beautiful human being with a big heart.

RIP Greg, you were an inspiration to our world.

Your friend,

Dave Alderson

*PS-check out the nice, old photos of us when we were young.
Makes me sad.*

David Alderson - July 21, 2017 at 09:50 AM

RP

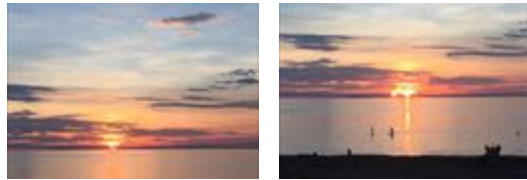
“ 1 file added to the album *Memorial Celebration*



rick piontek - March 09, 2017 at 02:19 PM

AK

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Al Kania - November 19, 2016 at 04:45 PM

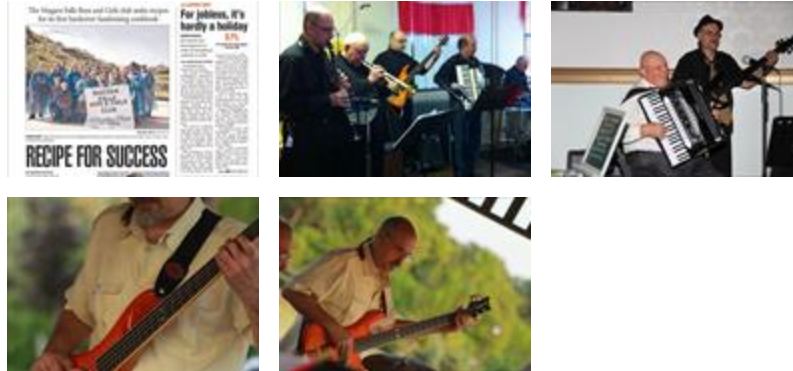
AK

Greg took these photographs of Hamburg Beach on July 11, 2016 and sent them to me. I will always remember how much Greg loved the outdoors and fishing.

Al Kania - November 19, 2016 at 04:54 PM

AK

“ 6 files added to the album 6 Files



Al Kania - November 18, 2016 at 11:28 PM

NA

“ *My teacher, mentor and most importantly friend.*

Greg took me on as a student 38 years ago, and while formal teaching stopped years ago, he still kept at me just last year playing a gig at my home. Greg and Trigger, always gentlemen, allowed my daughter and I to join them. Greg and I playing bass, Trigger doing his thing, and my daughter playing flute. Such a great memory!

Afterwards, Greg, pointing at the neck of my bass asked, 'What note is that'? I said, 'its a G'. And Greg said 'no...its just a spot on the neck. It's got nothing to do with the note!'. Having had a few drinks I was shall we say, a tad off key on my fretless. Still giving me lessons after all these years!

I'll never forget my fear and happiness when he introduced me as his student and I got to try my hand at playing Scapple from the Apple with Greg, Al, Bilahl, Dodo and Jimmy at the old Blue Note. I never forget the smile on my face when my daughter came home and told me her music professor at college was Greg.

And, I'll never forget Greg.

An incredible musician. A kind, loving soul. A great teacher. And a wonderful friend.

Neil Armknecht - November 18, 2016 at 07:02 AM

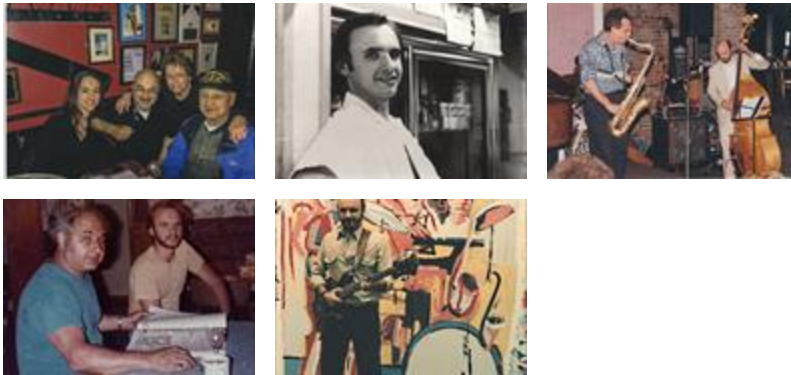
GS

“ I was just 18 yrs old when I got a weekly gig singing jazz standards with a group of legends at the CPG every Monday night that included Stu Weissman, Jim Kurzdorf, Bilal Abdul, Abdul Rochman, Trigger Gaston and Greg Piontek (spellings are probably wrong, sorry). I'm 52 now, but even at 18, I knew (as did my brother, Bob who played drums on that) that we were being warmly invited into an elite group of jazz masters and we never took it for granted. I will never forget when Greg, who befriended me immediately, said that if I was serious about this, I should take a jazz theory class at UB - So I did! He was a purist who gave up easy career opportunities for a greater puprpose: his study and commitment to the art form was palpable. I loved him dearly and am so sorry to hear of his passing, Gretchen Schulz

Gretchen Schulz - November 16, 2016 at 02:14 PM

RP

“ 7 files added to the album *New Album Name*



rpiontek - November 16, 2016 at 10:33 AM

JK

“ Dear Rich and family,
words can;t describe the lose you must feel. All we can offer is our
prayers
and thoughts for someone who gave a lot to so many people.
Love and memories fromJoan and Red Kempisty
and family

Joan and Red Kempisty - November 14, 2016 at 06:50 PM



“ Greg and I were student at UB together and then we played many
gigs together over the years. Greg was a great great person...warm,
wry, intelligent and uncompromising when it came to music. We
shared many great conversations and lots of laughs. sometimes I
wouldn't see him for many years but we could effortlessly pick up
our friendship like we had just been hanging out a week before. I
really find it hard to believe that I won't see him or play music with
him anymore. He was a treasured member of the music community.
My condolences to his family.

Jeff Hackworth - November 14, 2016 at 04:39 PM

BP

“ Very sorry for your loss.He sure was a talented musician. He will be
missed by all who knew him. My love to the family. Brad

Brad Piontek - November 14, 2016 at 03:53 PM

GC

“ My Deepest Sympathy to the Piontek family - so sad and shocked
to hear of Greg's passing. We shared many good times together, I'll
never forget Greg, he will always remain in my prayers.

Gregory Cwiklinski - November 14, 2016 at 08:24 AM

SH

“ Going to miss you when I visit Buffalo. It is will a heavy heart that I say Rest in Peace. Keep the music going in the heavens above us. Until we meet again.
Your cousin Susan



Susan Hajjar - November 14, 2016 at 07:18 AM

LH

“ I was so sorry to hear of Greg's passing. He was such a kind person. It was always a pleasure to play with him. May he rest in peace. Sincerely, Lisa Hasselback

Lisa Hasselback - November 14, 2016 at 05:03 AM

RP

“ 9 files added to the album pics



rpiontek - November 14, 2016 at 01:05 AM

RP

“ Greg lived life on his own terms, more than any person I've ever known.

Great Brother

Great Musician

Great Fisherman

Best Friend

I don't know how I will be able to fill the space left in me by his passing.

I'm definitely planning on joining his band when we meet again....

rick piontek - November 13, 2016 at 09:14 PM

KH

*Truly saddened to hear this. Greg and I dated for some time when we were in college. A wonderful guy, a wonderful family who accepted me as one of your own. Greg will always hold a special place in my heart. My prayers go out to you and your family. RIP Greg.
Karen Karas Howard*

karen karas howard - November 15, 2016 at 10:01 AM

AK

“ My deepest condolences to Richard and the Piontek family . Greg played my first music for cello at UB, could go all Tony Levin on a Chapman 'stick', could drop endless walking bass lines in straight ahead jazz, & turn right back into a classical chamber cellist. He also performed on stage in TOY's record-breaking run of "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill", lending a cool character on stage though he didn't have to act, because Greg was always the "coolest".

May Mike Colquhoun & Greg represent new music in Buffalo up in the high loft stage now.

Al Kryszak, his friend & fan

Al Kryszak - November 13, 2016 at 05:26 PM



“ Greg was my first bass teacher when I got out of High School. I remember hanging at Nietzsche's on Sundays to watch him, the late Al Tinney and Peggy Farrell, and John Bacon, Jr. perform and I would sit in from time to time. We've remained good friends since late 1986.

Jason Dobbs - November 13, 2016 at 04:19 PM

EG

“ I have known Greg since we were both music students at UB. I heard him play many beautiful concerts in many different styles. He was among the very best, and so versatile. I loved his cello playing at Shakespeare in the Park. Greg was such a peaceful, gentle person - I remember he advised me to be a peacemaker. He'll be missed.

Elise Alaimo Golove - November 13, 2016 at 12:41 PM

LC

“ Dear Piontek family and friends... I haven't seen Greg for a while and I'm just shocked to hear this sad news. He was always very warm to me, very funny, With the impish grin and ponytail! And unique personality... I'm glad I knew him and I will miss his friendship .

Lawrence cheeley - November 13, 2016 at 10:34 AM

CN

“ My Deepest Sympathy to the family
I met Greg through Ted Reinhardt and Greg let me sit in with Gamalon for a tune, Greg was a very nice guy and I am glad I saw him last year and talked to him as I had not seen him in many years prior.....
I send my Prayers and thoughts to all who knew him
thank you Greg for inspiring me
Rest In Peace my Friend !

Chris Noto - November 12, 2016 at 05:15 PM

VT

“ Chapman stik a name and instrument i learned about from from
greg while palying at CPG RIP Greg play on :)

van taylor - November 12, 2016 at 02:16 PM

JC

“ Greg,
We will miss you at St. Joe's.
It was an honor to play with you and just sitting next to you made me a better musician.
John Cretacci

John Cretacci - November 12, 2016 at 08:45 AM