



Nola Dorothea Matthews Collier

March 21, 1937 - April 29, 2022

Nola Dorothea Matthews Collier was born in Cape Town on March 21, 1937 and was raised in Johannesburg. She participated in many stage productions from a young age, including “Robinson Crusoe,” which toured South Africa. At 21, upon advice from a prophet David O. McKay of the LDS Church, she left to attend BYU in Provo, majoring in music education. She was the first to have a university education in her family. Upon graduating, Nola took a job in Rowland Heights, California, teaching junior high. She also joined the Southern California Mormon Choir and had solo vocal performances around Southern California.

Nola met and married Grant Collier in 1965 in Alberta, having established a playful and fierce love and friendship that lasted 57 years. They raised six children, two of whom died untimely deaths. Nola was respected in her communities for being a gentle sculptor of souls, who could coax deep feeling and beautiful sound from the most tone deaf among us. She cared deeply about the whole person of each of her students, convinced that a person’s voice derives from the depths of human experience and aspiration. She returned to school at age 50 and took a master’s degree in choral conducting, cementing another talent and beginning her university teaching career. She was charismatic and sensitive, cultivating beauty and laughter; if she called you an “ugly thing,” it meant she loved you.

Nola wanted everyone to know of her and her husband's deep and abiding faith in the Savior and the Atonement, feeling a "deep reverence and gratitude," as she often wrote. She looked forward to being reunited with her two children after passing the veil of death, and she was indeed ushered there by her loving husband who was there holding her hand. She is survived by her husband Grant, children Greg (Samantha), John (Claudia), Delinda (Jen), and Heather (Ryan); nine grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. at the Indian Hills Chapel, 1282 West 500 South Circle, St. George, Utah. A viewing will be held prior to service at 10:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m. at the same location. Interment will take place in the Tonaquint Cemetery

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Indian Hills LDS Chapel
1282 West 500 South Circle
St. George, UT 84770

Viewing

MAY 7. 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM (MT)

Indian Hills LDS Chapel
1282 West 500 South Circle
St. George, UT 84770

Funeral Service

MAY 7. 12:00 PM (MT)

Indian Hills LDS Chapel
1282 West 500 South Circle
St. George, UT 84770

Tribute Wall



“ *Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah created a Webcast in memory of Nola Dorothea Matthews Collier*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - May 06, 2022 at 10:47 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Nola Dorothea Matthews Collier.*



May 06, 2022 at 11:33 AM



“ *Heartfelt Memories was purchased for the family of Nola Dorothea Matthews Collier.*



May 05, 2022 at 04:10 PM

AB

“ Nola was my very first voice teacher at USU. She was so sweet and kind and just what I needed to get me started. One of my favorite things about Nola is that in master class or performance hour if there was extra time she would ask, "would anyone like to share their gift?" With her sweet accent. I loved it! To this day I think of my voice as a gift that I should share because of her saying that.

Amanda Bjarnson - May 05, 2022 at 02:22 PM



“ What beautiful tributes in both the obituary and here on this wall.

I too want ever so much to be like Nola, to act in a way that even the hardest are softened with her love. To brush off the hard stuff with a laugh while digging into the next tough assignment with gusto.

I especially loved the visit I had with her and Grant when they were taking care of Grandma Defonda. What a lot of work that was, (and if I remember correctly Grant was serving as Bishop). . .and she made a joke of it too 😊

I appreciated how she "lived on the edge" by indulging in cream cheese and salsa (a treat I will forever be grateful she introduced me to) by simply "shooting up" with a couple more insulin shots.

I pray comfort for all those who will miss her and express my sincere gratitude for the wonderful blessing she has been to me and all our family ❤️

Marian Hobson - May 05, 2022 at 11:00 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Nola Dorothea Matthews Collier.*



May 04, 2022 at 04:18 PM



“ *From Claudio & Yuliya Munoz purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Nola Dorothea Matthews Collier.*



From Claudio & Yuliya Munoz - May 04, 2022 at 03:39 PM



“ *I first remember my "Auntie Nola" (not Aunt Nola) when I was 7 years old. I knew her before that but was too young to remember the events. We drove as a family to visit her at 555 Daily Drive. We I got out of the squished car and after she had hugged my mother (Her sister Yvonne) for a long time she came up to me and bent over and cradled my face in her hands and said hello David in a Dutch/south African tone which sounds like Daaavid. I replied hello Aunt Nola. She then pinched my cheek and said "I'm not an insect. I am your Auntie Nola. I remembered that day as if it were yesterday. Her laugh was infectious. When she laughed everyone would end up laughing. I was able to see her a few times in the last three years. She had graduated from this life. Heavenly Father is going to have His hands full with her and mom back together! We will miss you but soon enough we will be back together. I love you Auntie. Always have! Always will!*

David Clark - May 04, 2022 at 03:17 PM

LY

“ My Auntie Nola came into my life in a time when I needed a little bit of joy. Her cheerful sarcasm and sweet flirtations with her husband gave me hope. I looked forward to family gatherings with Nola with great anticipation. For the rest of my life Nola was one of those beacon lights that I could rely upon.

I never doubted that Nola was a believer in Jesus Christ. Her testimony of the atonement of Jesus Christ permeated everything she said and did. She became a guiding star in my life. She taught me to see my family in a way that helped me to be grateful and yet liberated from traditions, habits and patterns that otherwise might have trapped me.

I am grateful for how she labored to see everyone with understanding and compassion. I'm grateful for the lessons she taught me about parenting through her life. I am grateful for the love that always radiated and glowed from her face in spite of her constant pain. Perhaps her pain was hidden in the sarcasm. But there was always sunny side, a joyful laugh, a happy chuckle.

I want to be a friend like Nola when I grow up.

Lynette - May 04, 2022 at 10:35 AM

DK

“ I first met Nola at the USU Music Department. She had a delightful voice of talking and singing. After she left USU, I followed her of Facebook and enjoyed her many comments about politics, family, friends and issues of the day. She cared deeply about other's comments. I looked forward to her posts. She had a loving soul and would show it in her posts.

Dorothy Kent - May 03, 2022 at 04:50 PM