



## Ralph W Beyer

September 5, 1924 - January 18, 2016

Ralph Wolfgang Beyer, 91, passed away on January 18, 2016 in St. George, Utah, from complications due to congenital heart failure. Ralph was born in Chemnitz, Saxony, Germany on September 5, 1924, to Fritz Guido and Johanna Frohm Beyer.

He was brought to the United States from Germany at age 3 where his family settled in Salt Lake City. His father died when he was 8 and his mother worked all her life to support her little family that also included Ralph's brother Harro and sister Sonja. He has always loved music and even from an early High School age, started his own dance bands. He served in the US army during WWII in the Pacific as an aircraft gunner. He was transferred to Hawaii where he joined the military band. During that time his band played in Hawaii, Iwo Jima and Okinawa for Bing Crosby, Eddie Bracken, Bob Hope and Doris Day.

He served an honorable LDS mission in Switzerland. After returning to the states, he formed a dance band that performed in various locations. He attended the University of Utah and studied music and engineering. At this time, he met his eternal sweetheart, Theda Lou Christensen. They became engaged on Christmas day, 1952, and were married February 6, 1953, in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. Ralph started his own music store, "Ye Music Box" on State Street in SLC and has owned music stores in both California and Southern Utah.

He has served faithfully in many church callings throughout his life and has

remained a strong and devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has always been a hard working individual, encouraging his children in their pursuit of music. He has loved his family and given them a good example of industry, faith and devotion to family.

He is survived by: his wife, Theda Lou Beyer; children, Kelley Ivey, Gregory R. Beyer, Heather Karstens, Lori Arnold, Denise Baumert, Kristine Leach and Val J. Beyer; 23 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Even though his family is saddened at his passing, they celebrate the wonderful life of their father and husband.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, January 23, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. at the Santa Clara Valley LDS Chapel, 3040 Santa Clara Dr., Santa Clara, UT.

Viewings will be held on Friday, evening January 22, 2016, from 6:30-8:00p.m., and again on Saturday from 11:30 to 12:30, both at the chapel.

Interment with Military Honors will follow the service at the Santa Clara City Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to share condolences online at [www.SerenityStG.com](http://www.SerenityStG.com). Arrangements and memorial tree planting are under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, 435-986-9100.

# Cemetery Details

## Santa Clara City Cemetery

3900 Ancestor Way  
Santa Clara, UT

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JAN 22. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Santa Clara 3rd Ward  
3040 W. Santa Clara Dr.  
Santa Clara, UT

## Viewing

JAN 23. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (MT)

Santa Clara 3rd Ward  
3040 W. Santa Clara Dr.  
Santa Clara, UT

## Service

JAN 23. 1:00 PM (MT)

Santa Clara 3rd Ward  
3040 W. Santa Clara Dr.  
Santa Clara, UT



# Tribute Wall

AN

“ We dearly loved Brother Beyer; looking forward each week to his visit and service in Initiatory at the St. George Temple. He pushed his two companions into additional service. He was so kind, considerate and willing. He will be greatly missed on this side of the vale. Best wishes to his family. The ordinance worker brethren at the temple.

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**Allen Nielsen** - February 09, 2016 at 10:08 AM

LE

“ Ralph was one who always greeted me with a smile when I entered his music store. He was helpful and knowledgeable in helping me find just the right piece of music. Through the years he repaired many an instrument for me, since my children all played in the band. I remember bringing him my very valuable ukulele that had a crack in the front piece. I wasn't sure how it could be repaired, but he did a wonderful job and I am still using it. I enjoyed playing in his jazz band and will miss his friendly presence. Linda K. Erickson

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**Linda K. Erickson** - January 28, 2016 at 01:41 PM

CF

“ Dear Beyer Family,

*Please accept my condolences for the loss of your husband, father, and grandfather. How fortunate you are to have had him for this long!*

*My name is Candy Lish Fowler. I grew-up in Granger, across the street from Ralph's sister, Sonja Riem. I often babysat for them. Ralph's mother, "Sister Beyer" lived in the adjacent apartment built onto their home. I have many fond memories of their family, of Sonja practicing her beautiful singing in the mornings—her voice rang through the neighborhood. Her gift for the violin was masterful. I was enchanted by her beauty and artistic gifts. Ralph's little mother was dear, sweet—always smiling and cheerful. They were cornerstones of my childhood. Somewhere in our family memorabilia, is a photo of my brother and me at a birthday party for Roxanne.*

*After I was married and had a little family, we moved to St. George. When I became acquainted with Ralph at "Music Music" and learned his name, I took a chance and asked about Sonja and his mother. Imagine my surprise when I discovered his sister and mother had been my childhood neighbors. He was so excited and happy about the connect. I have great respect for the Beyer family. We were always treated with courtesy when we came to your store, whether to order piano music or inquire about instruments, Ralph, Theda and members of your family always had smiles for us. I had wonderful discussions with Ralph about classical music—his love and knowledge of music made our talks so interesting.*

*May the blessings of the gospel bring you comfort at this time of loss.*

*Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, Utah*

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Candy Lish Fowler - January 22, 2016 at 09:37 PM

MP

“ *This is one of my favorite people! I learned to sing in the choir in Lincoln Ward back in the day :) He made singing and music fun and I will be forever grateful to him for sharing his gift of music! I Love You All. I wish I could be there with you tomorrow physically but know that I am there in Spirit!*

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**Marilyn Powell** - January 22, 2016 at 03:45 PM

JH

“ I'm just stunned by this news today. I grew up in the Beyer home. Val is my best friend and there was always a place at the dinner table for me and a room (or that terrible looking but incredibly comfortable green) couch to sleep on...and i used it a lot. :)

*In the entire 30 years I knew Ralph, I was never "Val's Friend, Jeff"...I was a Son. I even had chores at the house and they would call my mom up and ask if I could come over and do them. I've never forgotten that. It is one of my most treasured memories.*

*My favorite scar is from Ralph. We were in the Den on that green couch and Val, Ralph, and I were having a tickle fight. Well, he tickled me so mercilessly that i kicked the corner of the coffee table with the bottom of my foot. Oh, it bled and bled (and hurt too) but he fixed it right up...then we argued (jokingly) about who's fault it was. :) I remember that every time i see that scar. I truly treasure that scar.*

*Mind you, there are many many stories Val and I swore we'd never tell him...and never wanted him to find out about them either! They usually involved sleep overs, 2 A.M., poor decision making, and something we were defiantly not supposed to be doing!*

*My deepest condolences to Mom, Val, and the rest of the family. And my eternal thanks to Mom and Dad for giving me a second home that truly felt like a home. I would not be the man i am today without you.*

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**Jeffery Hudson** - January 22, 2016 at 02:42 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph W Beyer.*



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January 21, 2016 at 11:45 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Ralph W Beyer.*



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January 21, 2016 at 11:12 AM



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



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**Heather Karstens** - January 20, 2016 at 09:37 PM



“ *The big band in heaven has a new lead tenor player. Ralph was so "instrumental" in making me feel comfortable as I started my teaching career in Washington County. I loved playing gigs with him the the players he assembled. What a treasure to this community. My prayers are with the whole family.*

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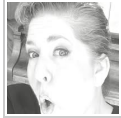
**Rhonda Rhodes** - January 19, 2016 at 05:21 PM



*Thanks SO much Rhonda! He absolutely adored you!*

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**Lori Arnold** - January 20, 2016 at 10:13 PM



*Thanks Rhonda! He would really appreciate your comments :D*

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**Kristine Leach** - January 20, 2016 at 11:28 PM



*Seeing Ralph frequently at Music Works was one of the highlights of my day. Always greeting me with a smile and sharing good stories and words of encouragement helped made me feel welcome to St. George. I often called him "Gramps" because I never had one. I don't think he minded. He was one of a kind. A true jewel of mankind. Prayers and blessings to his family at this time of starting new chapters in life.*

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**Jan Hodek** - January 22, 2016 at 02:07 AM