

The Sandra and Dennis Bergstrom Memorial Scholarship is for students in Mountrail County schools who wish to attend the International Music Camp. A total of \$600 each year will be awarded to offset the cost of camp tuition.

Dennis Bergstrom was born April 4th, 1942, in Minot, ND to Clifford and Esther (Lovdahl) Bergstrom. He was raised on the family farm northwest of Plaza and graduated from Dakota Lutheran Academy in 1960.

Sandra Joy Bergstrom was born August 31st, 1943, in Minot to Paul and Elvira (Urdahl) Borgers. Sandy, the third of seven daughters, grew to be a talented musician who always had a song in her heart. She graduated from Minot High in 1961.



Denny and Sandy's love story began when they met at a high school dance at Dakota Lutheran which Sandy attended with a friend. From that night on the two were rarely separated; Sandy said Denny would be waiting to pick her up in his '57 Chevy when her school let out for the day, while Denny's friends tell of Sandy loitering near his school after her violin lessons.

Denny attended Minot State College and earned a bachelor's degree in business. Sandy, much to Denny's dismay, started her education at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. She finished her music education degree at Minot State College.

The lovebirds were married August 2nd, 1963. Denny and Sandy had two children: a daughter, Kristin Jo, and a son, Clinton Josh. They had been married for 57 years when Denny passed away in April of 2021. Sandy passed away in December of 2022.

When Denny joined his father on the family farm in the late 1960's, Sandy taught music in nearby Parshall. She had previously taught music in Minot, at the Minot Air Base, and in Dickinson. Before she retired Sandy would also serve as the music instructor in Plaza, Palermo, New Town, Makoti and Ryder.

Sandy played many instruments, including the violin, piano, and guitar. She and Denny both loved a good sing-along although Dennis claimed he wasn't a very good singer. He did enjoy listening to whatever Sandy was playing or singing every day. Sandy even claimed that Denny was actually a pretty good singer when she would play a song he knew well enough to join in. They enjoyed all kinds of music from country to classical to popular music from the 40's, 50's and 60's.

Sandra amassed a very large sheet music collection while visiting various thrift stores during their travels across the western United States. She played many of those songs on one of her beloved Clavinova keyboards daily throughout most of their retired years, Dennis would gladly listen and sing along now and then while enjoying his coffee, only interrupting the private concert to bring Sandy more coffee.

We feel they would be very proud to have this scholarship in their name, spreading the joy of music to young people of the area.