



Richard Price

June 14, 1949 - April 7, 2020

Richard Price was born in the Bronx, New York, on June 14, 1949, and passed away on April 7, 2020, in Austin, Texas. He graduated with high honors, Phi Beta Kappa, from Queens College of the City University of New York and received his Masters from the University of Minnesota in 1977. Richard taught English in Austin for over forty years and also was known as a musician, composer, poet, songwriter and regular at Barton Springs. After retiring from Austin Community College, he published a novel about Austin musicians, became proficient in Tai Chi, and served in Austin Shmirah and the Seedling Mentor Program. Richard was preceded in death by his father Irving Price and is survived by his dear mother Mildred Price. He will be held in the hearts of his loving spouse of 48 years, four children and their spouses, two grandchildren, sister, brother-in-law, and niece. Richard also will be missed by numerous cousins, kin related by marriage, and a host of friends.

Richard's family extends heartfelt thanks to all those who reached out to him during his long illness and to the caring professionals at Austin Hospice, Texas Oncology, and Texas Home Health.

There will be a private graveside service at Eloise Woods Community Natural Burial Park in Cedar Creek, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the American Cancer

Society, the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund at Congregation Agudas Achim, or a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Price*

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ *Mr Price was my English teacher in middle school. It's funny the songs and stories I still remember because he would tell them with such depth and description. I remember the class where we listened to "Under the Boardwalk" over and over. He was teaching us imagery in his unique way. I can't hear that song without thinking about that class. Some teachers just become a part of your life forever. My deepest condolences to the family.*

Angie Haar - January 18, 2021 at 04:12 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences to the Price family. May Me. Price RIP. 🙏 From the Garza and Villarreal families.*



Mrs. Blanca Garza - April 15, 2020 at 01:14 PM



“ *Richard will be missed dearly. His spirit for life was captivating and his spirit will live on in our memories forever. Richard and Linda welcomed me into their home and family with open arms many years ago, and I'm forever grateful. Rest In Peace Richard.*

Danielle

Danielle Milligan - April 12, 2020 at 02:21 PM

JT

“ I don't recall when I first met Rich but I know it was somehow jazz related. From time to time he would come up to KUT after his gigs to hang out when I hosted *Jazz, Etc.*, a Friday nite midnight to 5am jazz show. He used to praise the likes of the relatively obscure sax man Guiseppi Logan and also Pharoah Sanders for their spiritually uplifting music. Rich once suggested playing two differing versions of the same tune back to back and, to this day, I've incorporated that wonderful suggestion into my radio programming.

I remember hosting his klezmer band *B'samim* on KUT's *Live Set* many moons ago and I was also fond of his Latin music group (whose name skips my mind at present). I knew Rich was a school teacher but he was also a teacher of life and was quite astute on many subjects including literature. I was duly impressed when he told me he had read Marcel Proust's classic in French. He was also quite fond of Latin culture. I believe the last time I saw Rich was at Barton Springs. He told me he had written a book that I appeared in and wanted to send me a copy. The book, *Troubadours: Love Death Rumba*, arrived with some poetry he had written about jazz and listening to my program. It came with the greeting, "For you for all you do, especially 'Kind Of Blue'." The book was a delight to read with the Latin music he loved as the foundation and a heavy Austin presence of place. And, yes, I get a brief shoutout as "J. Von Tractenburg.....a radio rhapsodist.....his music was an anthem to the shades of night. Miles, Trane, Puente, Celia, Willie, Waylon, and Townes, an eclectic soundtrack to dreamtime in the city." Rich certainly had a beautiful way with words! I never saw him in person again but we did speak once afterward when he called to ask how I liked the book and to thank me for mentioning it in the *Austin Chronicle*. At that time he mentioned having some health issues but that he would be fine. So I was shocked but not surprised when Rich's name appeared in the obits this morning. Although I didn't see him much in recent years his passion and knowledge of jazz will always be an inspiration to me. I will certainly miss his sly humor and adventurous spirit. May be now share a space with his musical heroes. My deep condolences to his family.

Jay Trachtenberg. (4/12/20)

Jay Trachtenberg - April 12, 2020 at 01:20 PM

MF

“ I met Rich in the summer of 1968. I was in the band at a small hotel in the Catskills. Rich was a busboy and Gordon was a waiter. Rich had just picked up the sax, and we all used to jam and party late into the night in the staff house (which on one occasion caused the cook to chase us with a knife). I had just graduated high school – Rich had finished his first year at Queens College, where I was headed. We became close friends immediately, spending hours discussing philosophy, religion, music, and literature. Rich turned me on to Pharoah Sanders, the Incredible String Band, and New York’s alternative radio station, WBAI, and a hundred other cultural gems of the time. We went to many concerts and jazz clubs, and I spent more than a few nights sleeping over at his family’s apartment in Queens. We laughed a lot and held each other up during those crazy years.

After Rich moved to Texas I tagged along as a groupie with him and Omar and the Howlers for some gigs in Mississippi. My wonderful self-appointed job was to be the first one on the dance floor boogying to the Howlers. The band also all stayed with me in my little East Village studio apartment when they came to New York to play the Lone Star Café. That was the night Rich tipped me off that Mick Jagger was in an upstairs room, so I innocently walked into the party to get a quick peek.

So like others who’ve written here, I’ve had a glimpse into Rich’s soul, and he was extraordinary, one of the most unique individuals I’ve ever known. He followed the voice of his spirit primarily, and he had the power, ability and vision to rise to realms of mind, music, sensitivity and communication that make life a blessing. He was incredibly fortunate to have had Linda as a companion from the early days at Queens College through to his very last.

I loved this guy. I’d like to think that his soul lives on, enjoying the delights in a higher plane of creation, some of which he sampled while he was still in his mortal frame.

Marty Fradis

Marty Fradis - April 10, 2020 at 11:43 PM

JS

“ A few shots of Richard playing with Orangutango, early 90's. Richard was always an enthusiastic, passionate performer and band mate, loved playing live gigs and he could play any style of music. People were always blown away at his versatility, and we could not have played that diverse repertoire without him. I distinctly remember him leading the band, and the entire wedding party in 'Hava Nagila' and 'Yesh' when the occasion called for it - master of ceremonies, cheerleader and dance coach all at once!



Jeff Sharpe - April 10, 2020 at 08:00 AM

JC

I was fortunate enough to be in a band with Richard he was an amazing musician he taught me a lot it was a fun ride , Austin will miss him Rest in peace my brother

John Cantu - April 10, 2020 at 02:00 PM

OD

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Omar Dykes - April 10, 2020 at 07:00 AM

RW

“ My condolences to Richard's family from his Barton Springs family. He will be missed greatly by his tribe of “old silverbacks” as we are known who inhabited the shady spots under the plumb tree on the south side hill of Barton Springs. He was always ready to join any impromptu live jam session there with his harmonica. We will miss his witty stories of band life with the likes of “Omar and Howlers”, among others! R.I.P. ol' friend.

Ron Waters

Ron Waters - April 09, 2020 at 04:22 PM

PD

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Pat Darling - April 09, 2020 at 01:37 PM

PL

“*Richie and I went to Forest Hills High School together. He was actually a year ahead of me, in my brother's class. He and my brother, Gordon Fish, became very good friends and continued on the attend Queens College together. The memories abound.*

I remember when he met his soon to be girlfriend, eventually to be wife, Linda. Once, he was with her at the bus stop on our corner....and as she went on the bus he went to give her a smooch...and the bus doors closed in and on his face. He loved telling that story, having a good laugh at himself.

He went to Europe, Spain, I think, during that time. He came home with a leather wine holder as a gift for me and my roommate, Corly. We had no wine and it was a Sunday (liquor stores were closed), so Richie and I went to a local pizza place, ordered a bottle of wine as if we were going to drink it there, and just left with it. We thought we were so clever.

Gordon, Richie, and Harry became long distance, but sincere friends. I am posting a pic of the three of them....Gordon from NY, Harry from Oregon, Richie from Texas....but always a trio.

I didn't see Richie once he moved to Texas, but he kept in close touch with Gordon. When Gordon got sick a few years ago, Richie was a kind and caring life line. His beautiful words, songs dedicated to Gordon, and his constant phone calls ... well, I cannot begin to explain how loved he made my brother feel.

I am a true believer that Gordon and Richie have been reunited and that they will continue to have that connection throughout eternity.



Pamela Latterman - April 09, 2020 at 11:04 AM

AA

“ Rich and I go way bak to 1985 when we played in the Jewish eclectic music band B'samim. Those were crazy days and even though he and I raced in different orbits in the last years, he has remained a fixture in my life. I credit him with encouraging my son to play sax, and I am blessed to have been considered his friend. He was a real poet. Sometimes a dirty poet, but a poet nonetheless!

Alan Alhades

alan alhades - April 08, 2020 at 06:55 PM

PQ

“ Richard was a friend who was a member of our Austin Finnegans Wake Reading Group for a few years. He was known as a funny, witty chatterbox with a Bronx accent. He was a brilliant guy, so filled with knowledge, so passionate and poetic, he really inspired me and others. He loved to indulge in spirited debates and as a longtime jazz musician he was always breaking into song and sharing lyrics with us. I really cherish the memories I had with him, he was such a fun person to be around. I will miss him dearly and I want to send my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

Peter Quadrino - April 08, 2020 at 01:21 PM

JH

“ Rich was a colleague and collaborator and I am proud to have been his friend. He was one of the few people with whom I could easily have a deep conversation about literature, especially Chaucer, Milton and the Troubadours. We played music together and helped each other with our fiction and poetry. I wish him Godspeed, and to his family, I offer my condolences and my hope, which I sure he shared, that you all will grow in peace, joy and love. John Herndon

John Herndon - April 08, 2020 at 11:12 AM

OD

“ Rich was an exceptional addition to my band, Omar and the Howlers. I met him in a record store at Highland Mall in Austin as I was just starting my own band after the original Howlers broke up. Rich told me he played horns and percussion and if I needed someone to play to give him a call. I called him later that same day and we played together for several years. He and bass player, Bruce Jones, taught me almost everything I know about jazz. I loved him like a brother and will miss him dearly. Omar Dykes

Omar Dykes - April 08, 2020 at 08:46 AM