



Sean Allen Kelly

July 7, 1955 - September 4, 2021

Sean Kelly of Austin died on September 4, 2021. Sean was not a native Texan; he moved to Austin in 2009. He, however, found the Texas climate and Austin and its people totally to his liking. He grew up in Denver, Colorado, one of four children. From an early age, he loved music. He memorized all of the songs taught in his elementary school music class and then taught all of them to his younger brother Tom, at night as they lay in their bunk beds. When Tom then later entered kindergarten, he astounded his music teacher because he knew all of the songs!

Sean learned to play piano as a child and then taught himself guitar when he was a teenager. At about the same time, his great uncle gave him a standup bass that the uncle had used for playing jazz when he was a young man. Sean really took to the bass and was accepted into his college music school. Later, Sean was accepted to the prestigious Indiana University masters music program.

Sean intended to be a performer and, after completing his master's degree, left immediately for Germany, to play in orchestras there. Unfortunately, Sean had to leave Germany and return to Denver to take care of his sick father, and he never returned to Germany or to working full time in an orchestra. He had learned piano tuning while in grad school, to have something to fall back on, and so became a piano tuner and technician while continuing to take care of

his parents in Denver. He pursued this career for 30 years before moving to Austin in 2009. He played music part-time, too. In the last several years, he had taken up the violin and played fiddle at monthly contra dances in Austin. He was slowly improving on the fiddle but found the much smaller instrument difficult.

He lived a good life and retained his joy in life and its mysteries and in the people and animals who inhabit our earth. We'll really miss Sean!

Tribute Wall

CE

“ I only now found out that Sean has passed. I knew Sean since High school days in Denver as a fellow bassist. I know it is so easy to say this when someone has passed, but Sean truly, truly was one of the nicest persons I have ever met in my life. I am so sad to have found this out. Condolences to those close to Sean. Chris Engleman

chris engleman - December 04, 2022 at 09:43 PM

HA

“ My wife and I met Sean Kelly in our Austin neighborhood during the pandemic, as we all went for walks regularly after dinner. He would tell us stories about his life as a musician, some about past travels to Europe, and about growing up in Denver. He was so friendly, and such a great person to chat with, we were always glad to see him during our walks. We only once met at a local restaurant when the pandemic eased for a while, so we never developed a habit of contacting another. We were very sad to later hear of his passing, after we had returned from a trip abroad. I am sure Sean touched many lives. His genuine interest in other people, and the way that he shared in conversations are unforgettable.

harm van avendonk - October 25, 2022 at 08:00 PM



“ Sean Allen Kelly

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM

MC

“ John met Sean on a trip to Crested Butte, Colorado, to join brother Norden for a 4th of July event. He remembers Sean fondly as a really nice guy. Our sympathies to Norden.
John, Margaret, Erin and Kelly Conway

Margaret Conway - October 03, 2021 at 12:24 PM

SE

“ Sean was our neighbor in the time up until his passing and was always so friendly and kind. He knew us by name and always checked in. We will deeply miss him walking through the neighborhood and stopping by for chats.

Shannon Elder - September 20, 2021 at 08:42 PM

JS

“ Sean was such a welcoming, supportive, and kind member of the Austin music community. When I first showed up at a Wednesday contra dance, Sean immediately welcomed me, and made a space in the circle so I could sit next to him and share his music. He made sure to learn my name, introduced me to the other musicians, and was so encouraging to me as a beginner musician. The way Sean treated me was how he treated everyone. He loved building community and making friends. I will really miss him, and I am so thankful that we met and played music together.

James Seppi - September 17, 2021 at 11:52 AM