



Please consider a memorial donation to the Laurie Conrad Music and Arts Fund, which will provide grants to not-for-profit organizations in support of classical music and ballet instruction and performance by children and adults, and documentary filmmaking for social justice causes.

This fund was established at the Community Foundation of Tompkins County  
in memory of Laurie Conrad,  
an extraordinarily gifted musician, artist and writer and long-time Ithacan.  
Grants from this fund will continue Laurie's legacy  
and honor her creative genius.



Laurie lived in Ithaca for over 50 years and died in April 2016. She was a classical pianist and composer, piano teacher, meditation teacher, painter, writer, videographer, and gifted gardener. She received her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Music Performance from Ithaca College. She originally came to the Ithaca College School of Music to study clarinet, but when she heard George King Driscoll play the piano, she knew that she had found her true teacher and switched to piano when he accepted her as a student. They remained friends long after Laurie graduated, and she spent many happy afternoons playing piano duets with him. One afternoon, he pointed to a framed photograph of his own master teacher and

said, "He is my father, and you are the grandchild."

As a pianist, Laurie performed a vast repertoire and was known especially for her interpretation of Chopin, Schubert, Rachmaninoff and Liszt. Her playing was sublime, and her audiences were transported by her remarkable combination of passion, power, and otherworldly sensitivity.

She studied composition with Karel Husa and was a prolific composer. Laurie composed both twelve-tone and tonal music. Her oeuvre includes songs, chamber music, and works for full orchestra and choir. One of her most recent works is "Unsung Songs", a cycle of 15 pieces for piano, flute, cello, viola, and violin, set to haiku poems written by William Hurley. Her music has been played on radio and TV all over the world, and she has been the recipient of various grants for both composing and performing. Her available recordings are listed below.



Laurie brought inspiration, healing, sanctuary, and peace to everyone who crossed her path. Her piano students thrived on her combination of extraordinary patience, gentleness, and high expectations. She taught hundreds of students, many of whom became professional musicians.

Laurie's spouse, Mariette Geldenhuys, discussed the creation of this fund with Laurie before her death. Laurie was deeply touched and chose the purposes of the fund, which reflect her lifelong passion for the arts.

As a lifelong reverent Catholic, Laurie had a profound respect for all spiritual traditions, in particular the mystical aspects of each. She studied with Anthony Damiani, the founder of Wisdom's Goldenrod Center for Philosophic Studies, and John Payne, founder of Foundation of Light. She taught a

weekly meditation class for more than 30 years and profoundly changed the lives of many of her meditation students.

As a piano teacher and meditation teacher, Laurie taught her students so much more than music and meditation, in ways they often realized only years later.

Laurie was a gifted painter and her paintings of the Finger Lakes region reflect her love of her long-time home.

She is the author of four books on spiritual topics, which have inspired many with her unique, poetic, mystical and spiritual wisdom. Her last book, "Footsteps on the Spiritual Path: Spiritual Exercises for Every Day of the Year," was published posthumously in April 2016.



*Laura Campbell, flutist and Laurie Conrad, pianist*

[Follow this link](#) to read Laurie's complete obituary.

Her available recordings are listed below.

For copies of Laurie's books and CDs or to inquire about her paintings, please contact Mariette Geldenhuys at [geldenhuys.mariette@gmail.com](mailto:geldenhuys.mariette@gmail.com).

CD's of Laurie Conrad's compositions:

Visions for Flute and Harp (2004)

Flute: Laura Campbell

Harp: Myra Kovary

Early Songs

Soprano: Louise McConnell

Songs of the Earth: Unsung Songs (2013)

*Set to the poems of William Hurley*

Piano: Laurie Conrad

Violin: William Hurley

Flute: Laura Campbell

Viola: Max Buckholtz

Cello: Elisa Evert

Images (2015)

Flute: Laura Campbell

Harp: Myra Kovary

Violin: William Hurley

Viola: Suzanne Miller

Glimpses (2015)

Flute: Laura Campbell

Piano: Laurie Conrad

Books by Laurie Conrad:

The Spiritual Life of Animals and Plants (2002)

Realms of Light: Clairvoyant Experiences of Life after Death (2008)

Visits with Angels and other Divine Beings (2011)

We Meet in Dreams: A New Interpretation of Dreams (2012)

Footsteps on the Spiritual Path: Spiritual Exercises for Every Day of the Year (2016)

