



Hong Wang

October 16, 1957 - February 5, 2021

Beloved cellist Hong Wang, 63, died peacefully February 5, 2021, at his home in Coon Rapids, MN. Hong had been receiving in-home hospice care for advanced metastatic cancer and was comforted throughout by the presence of his devoted family.

Hong was a well known and beloved cello teacher who dedicated his life to teaching and performing. His life's mission was to share his beautiful music with the next generation.

Born in 1957 in Fuzhou, China, Hong was the middle son of his parents Bing-Tian Wang and Jin-Pei Zou. Hong was a bright and obedient child born into a country in chaos; though schools were closed quite a long time during the Cultural Revolution era, Hong was possessed of an innate hunger for knowledge that helped him overcome his circumstances. Hong earned his Cello Performance diploma and Bachelor of Music degree in 1982 from Fujian Province Arts School as well as an Artist diploma in Cello Performance from Shanghai Conservatory of Music, winning third prize in a prestigious cello competition in China in 1985.

Hong's performance skills were evident early on, as was his ability to teach. Hong's enthusiasm and passion to share music brought him another great love: Hong first became acquainted with his wife Yuna Chen, when her

brother brought his close friend, Hong into their home to show Yuna how properly to shift on the strings. As Yuna tells their story today, "Hong was born to teach. I remember those years, he was in his early teen years but already a serious teacher; he very seriously taught me to know how to play, and he in turn played cello sounds so beautiful to my ear. The love seed started to grow in my heart." And grow it did. Hong and Yuna wed January 1984. In August of 1988, Hong made his way to the United States, his young family followed him the next year. Hong earned his Master of Music in Cello Performance in 1993 on a full scholarship. In 2003 Hong Wang earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Cello Performance from the University of Minnesota, also with a full scholarship. Hong taught at St. Joseph School of music, Bethel University, Concordia University, Hamline University, and St. Cloud State University, as well as private instruction.

In addition to his music, Hong loved the beauty of national parks and would spend summers traveling with family. Hong was passionate about traditional Chinese tea, and his hobbies would include gardening, birdwatching, and eating fine foods.

Hong Wang is survived by his mother Jin-Pei Zou, wife Yuna, sons Lu (Rachel) and Anthony. He is predeceased by his father Bing Tian Wang.

There will be an open house memorial for Hong on May 16, 2021 from 2-4pm at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Pavillion #3. Located at 9750 Egret Blvd NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433. The family is accepting donations to install a park bench dedicated in Hong's honor at the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park with any extra used to offset outstanding funerary expenses.

Previous Events

Memorial

MAY 16. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

Tribute Wall

TP

“ I have collaborated with Hong in concerts for many years. Both at Bethel and outside of the community, including a concert tour in Fuzhou China where Hong was originally from. He was a very kind human being and good colleague. Always very respectful and thoughtful of others. My heart feels very heavy to lose a good friend and colleague. May he rests peacefully in heavy where the music is always with him.

Tina Juan Park - March 29, 2021 at 02:20 PM

CV

“ Hong was such a kind and friendly colleague. He always greeted me by name, and shared his smile each time. I will miss him, as I am sure you all do too!

Cathy Victorsen,
Harp colleague at Bethel and Hamline Universities

Cathy Victorsen - March 23, 2021 at 03:59 PM