



Ira Jewel Mayer

July 21, 1931 - July 8, 2020

Jewel Hill Mayer, singer-songwriter, beloved teacher, and self-described zany lady, went to her final rest in the wee hours of Wednesday, July 8th, 2020. Diagnosed in May with Covid-19, she had spent an asymptomatic month in the isolation ward, and after fully clearing the virus, had spent just two weeks in her room prior to her passing.

She is reunited on those heavenly shores with her birth family: mother Verna Mae (Mosley) Hill, father John Densmore Hill, and brothers Jack, Harold, and Berlan-- the first time all six have been together since John died in 1934!

Born Ira Jewel Hill in Louisville, MS on July 21st, 1931, she was raised in the Delta town of Glen Allen and received her Bachelor's degree from Millsaps College in Jackson, where she studied education and was a star performer on the school's basketball team. She earned her Master's in Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1980, and taught for many years in a number of school districts across Minnesota.

She spent her adult life in the Twin Cities and Orlando, FL where she enchanted those lucky enough to cross her path with her exuberant joy, all-encompassing smile, and her clever, delightful, and insightful songs, on which she usually accompanied herself on her autoharp.

A lover of music, poetry, and (most passionately) the people in her life, she is survived by loving sons Steven Wayne, William Allen (Kathleen Ziegler) and C Andrew (Cheryl Willis) and beloved granddaughters Rebecca Corazon and Emma Jewel-- the lights of her life. She also leaves behind a vast constellation of broken-hearted friends who will forever remember her smile, charm, good cheer, and warm Southern accent.

The family wishes to thank the staff at the Episcopal Homes for their superhuman care and genuine love for Jewel.

Cemetery Details

Hillside Crematory

2610 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall

DW

“ *My heartfelt sympathy to Jewel's family and friends.*

Donna Skeens Williamson - July 22, 2020 at 08:41 AM

DW

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Donna Skeens Williamson - July 22, 2020 at 08:39 AM

DW

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Donna Skeens Williamson - July 22, 2020 at 08:01 AM

DW

I once wrote a song called "Empty Box of Memories" about a time when I helped Jewel sort through her boxes to decide which memories to keep and which to throw away. She couldn't throw anything away thus the Empty Box. Jewel told me she sang this song whenever she was performing . Love you Forever, dear friend.

Donna Skeens Williamson - July 22, 2020 at 08:06 AM

BB

Happy Heavenly 90th Birthday my dear Jewel...you are so loved and missed!

Bette Jo Andolino Becker - July 24, 2021 at 12:38 AM