

Obituary

December 16, 2010 5:30 AM

DANIEL, Katinka S.

January 17, 1913 - December 11, 2010

Katinka Scipiades Daniel passed away in Santa Barbara on December 11, 2010, a few weeks short of her 98th birthday, surrounded by her family.



She was born January 17, 1913 in Budapest, Hungary, to parents Elemer and Iren (Gecso) Scipiades. She held degrees in Elementary Music Education from the Notre Dame Teachers College, in Music Education and Piano from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, and pursued doctoral studies at the Pazmany Peter University in Budapest.

Mrs. Daniel was a student, disciple and lifelong friend of Jenő Adam, who developed the so-called Kodaly Method of music education. She taught music education, piano and solfège for 22 years in the Budapest Municipal School System prior to coming to the United States in 1960.

Katinka Daniel pioneered the Kodaly Method curriculum for the United States while teaching at the San Roque School in Santa Barbara for over 10 years. She introduced the Method in the United States, and trained hundreds of music educators as a lecturer at many colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Counted among her students are numerous faculty members at schools and universities in California, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Connecticut, Canada, and Taiwan. She was adjudicator for the National Piano Guild, and over the years several of her piano students won Paderewski gold medals. Her life's work was detailed in a professional publication by Jeri Bonnin.

She was the author of several books and instructional videos on the Kodaly Method, and received several awards and distinctions for her lifelong work on behalf of music education. Among these was the Golden Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary presented to her in 1993 in person by Hungarian Ambassador to Washington Pal Tar.

Katinka was blessed with many loving and supportive colleagues, students and friends. They described her as the ultimate teacher, mentor and friend. She was equally devoted to her native country and to making a significant contribution to her new country: she instilled the same values in her children. She personified perseverance, tenacity, focus, industry, strong principles and deep religious faith. She had great interest in and a wealth of knowledge about history. Katinka loved travel, adventure, her garden, fine chocolate, and most of all telling endless stories.

Katinka is preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Erno Daniel, former professor of music at UCSB and conductor of the Santa Barbara Symphony, by her parents, her brother Elemer Scipiades, Jr., her sister Eleonora (Nora Scipiades) Patkos, and their spouses.

Katinka is survived by loving children, Alexa Daniel Maland (Lynn) of Salt Lake City, UT; Erno S. Daniel (Martha Peaslee Daniel) of Santa Barbara. Grandchildren: Daniel Maland, Sarah Maland, Kristina Daniel Lawson and husband Matthew Lawson, Michael Peaslee Daniel and wife Erica Lash Daniel., Mary Daniel Gullett and husband Randolph Gullett, and Monica Daniel. Great-grandchildren Katherine L. and Graham M. Lawson, and Jonathan B. Gullett, and other extended family.

The family expresses heartfelt thanks to the staff of Sansum Clinic, Cottage Hospital, Mission Terrace and Community Home Health of Santa Barbara.

She will be laid to rest next to her husband in a private family ceremony at Calvary Cemetery on Monday, December 27, followed by a Funeral Mass on Monday, December 27 at 11:30AM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel church at 1300 East Valley Road in Santa Barbara (Montecito). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in her honor can be made to the Silver Lake College Performing Arts Center (2406 Alverno Road, Manitowoc, WI 54220, attn: Margaret Toohey) and to the Organization of American Kodaly Educators Legacy Endowment (OAKE, 1612 29th Avenue South, Moorhead, MN 56560).