



Irene Mitchell

April 23, 1933 - January 10, 2013

79, a resident of Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Los Alamos, passed away on January 10, 2013. She is survived by her son, Roger Mitchell, his spouse, Linda; two grandchildren; sister, Gia Jason of New York; and former husband, Ken Mitchell of Santa Fe. She was preceded in death by her son, David; sisters, Franny, Rosie; and brother, George. Irene was born in Pittsburgh, PA where she went to school and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with an English degree before marrying and moving to New Mexico. She settled in Los Alamos, raising her two sons, and pursuing a writing career. She became a journalist and editor for the Los Alamos Monitor, winning a NM Press Association's EH Shaffer Award for best feature story of the year. Irene was an avid gardener which led her to specialize in writing about horticultural, botanical and ecological subjects. She published over a thousand articles in various publications including the New York Times, Sunset Magazine and the Albuquerque Journal. For 13 years, she had a weekly mountain gardening column in the Denver Post. She was a consultant for the Sunset Western Garden Book (Rockies and Southwest). Later, she worked for many years as a writer and editor for LANL and LATA. Irene was a devoted classical music fan and spent much of her retirement playing piano, and attending operas and classical music events with friends and family. Memorials may be made in her memory to Eisenhower MS Band Boosters, Eldorado HS Choir Boosters, Santa Fe Opera Outreach program or any organization that celebrates her love of music or gardening. Please visit our online guest book for Irene

Mitchell at FrenchFunerals.com and provide your contact information, or contact the family, so that the family can inform you about the memorial and interment to be announced for the spring.

Tribute Wall

TP

“ *It is not coincidence that music brings people together in a mysterious way. As non English I was immediately impressed by Irene’s comments on the blog, because they were written with such a style. We will miss you Irene, but you will stay in our hearts.*

Tomaž Petkovski - February 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *I've just heard the sad news. What a treasure Irene was as a frequent commenter on my blog. She always wrote with grace, passion, humour and intelligence and made countless invaluable contributions. We never met but I'll never forget her.*

Stephen Hough - February 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *Like Kimberly, I will miss your acute, common sense remarks on Stephen Hough's blog. In a way we met--it was a meeting of the minds about music and much else.*

Keith McDuffie - February 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ *One of the blessings of the internet is that we can make friends with people all over the world. Irene, I never met you, but I always enjoyed your contributions to Stephen's blog. I had great respect and affection for your sharpness of intellect and your no-nonsense approach to life. I'm grateful for the small connection we had across the Pacific, and you will remain in my prayers. May you rest in peace.*

John O'Leary - February 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Irene, I will so miss you, your wonderful emails and your marvelous comments on Stephen's blog. Though I didn't have the chance to meet you, I know that you were one of those people who always had a twinkle in her eyes. I'm comforted too by the knowledge that classical music was such an integral part of your life, as it is mine. All my love, Kimberly To the family: I'd love to read some of Irene's work; articles, columns etc! If there is a resource I might visit to find her writing, I would be delighted to pursue. I had just recently sent her links to excerpts from a program I know she would have been so excited about: OK Youth in Classical. My sincere condolences, Kimberly

Kimberly Powell - February 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM