

Gift of a Song

Purpose: to provide families with a special keepsake in the form of a personalized, originally written song for their deceased loved one. Businesses/agencies providing this will have their name on the accompanying materials to serve as advertising.

***Please read family testimonials here:

<http://www.musicfromthestart.com/gift-of-a-song1.html>

******We do not ask families, we choose families that would appreciate such a gift. Similar to how we do not ask the family if we can bring flowers to the funeral.***

1) Three songs are available at this time to be personalized, each with a different sentiment. Go to: <http://www.musicfromthestart.com/gift-of-a-song2.html> to see songs and the details about what information to provide David, to personalize the songs.

2) Once a family is chosen, go to <http://www.musicfromthestart.com/contact.htm>. Choose the song then in the "Comment" section include: exact spelling of name, birth date, info to personalize the song and when the gift is needed by. Also provide your email and cell # so David can get the materials to you.

******You will have by now a box of materials containing blank CDs and CD sleeves, decorative paper to print out the lyrics, blank bookmark pages, bags, ribbon and tissue paper, all to make up the gift bag for the family.*** <http://www.musicfromthestart.com/gift-of-a-song1.html>

3) Once information is received David will record the song. David will then email you the mp3 (to be put on a CD and/or shared/emailed to the family), the 8.5" x 11" lyric document and keepsake bookmarks to print off for the family. All to be put in the provided gift bag (see photo of completed gift bag).

4) **Upon giving the gift bag to the family...** say - "Please accept this gift from us... Based on information about your loved one, a song writer that works with us wrote and personalized this song about (your loved one). This gift is for you, your family and loved ones, to have as a lasting keepsake."

******If the gift is presented prior to the memorial service, try to arrange for a family member to listen to the song (possibly be emailing a family member the mp3, or listening to the CD at the funeral home). Remind them that in the gift bag there are lyric, keepsake bookmarks that many service attendees can read as the song plays, i.e., if they decide to use the song in the memorial service.***

History of *Gift of a Song*

In 1996, as the staff music therapist at St. Vincent Medical center in Toledo, OH, David was asked to compose a memorial song for a beloved colleague, a doctor. Since that time David has written many other pieces that he has personalized, particularly for hospice patient's families, that were played at their funerals. This has consistently been appreciated and well received by families that mention that "being able to have a song about my mom played at her funeral and then have it to listen to for ever is wonderful..." Recently, David has been encouraged by families and colleagues to make this process of personalizing songs a more formal endeavor. Now, David records the songs with full instrumentation so families can now have a professional sounding recording of a song that memorializes their loved one.