



Paul M. Gervais Memorial Music Scholarship
Greater Worcester Community Foundation

When Paul M. Gervais died unexpectedly in 2013 at the age of 57, he left many grieving family members and friends. Together, they created this scholarship to celebrate Paul's extraordinary gifts for playing and teaching music, as well as fostering relationships within Worcester's music community. It is awarded to graduating high school seniors from the Worcester area who have been involved in music and plan to continue playing music in college and beyond.

Paul was born and raised in Worcester, the eldest son of Pat and Paul J. Gervais' seven children. He was introduced to music at an early age, as his father played the saxophone in a swing band. At Doherty Memorial High School, Paul played trumpet in the orchestra and jazz band. After graduating from Doherty in 1973, and from Fitchburg State College in 1977, Paul opened the Kurlan Music Center in Worcester. For over 35 years, he provided musical equipment, music lessons, and sound and music services throughout central Massachusetts. Paul shared his skills and resources without cost to many schools, churches, businesses and charity events. The store, voted "Best of Worcester" several times by local publications, was a hub of activity for some of Worcester's most creative musical talents. It was more than a business to Paul; it was a mission to share the love of music and how to play it.

In 1982, Paul married Catherine Gilson. They had two daughters, Kristen and Annie. Paul spent countless hours supporting his children's academic, musical and athletic endeavors and considered his family the true light of his life. He also played trumpet in the Nashoba Valley Concert Band and in various ensembles around Worcester. With a love for the outdoors, Paul's other interests included camping, sailing, kite-flying and building radio-controlled airplanes.

Paul believed that musical talent is a gift that needs nurturing and guidance. His family and friends hope this scholarship will provide such support to music students, encouraging them to continue making music and spreading its joy to others.

Note: From 2014-2018, the Paul M. Gervais Memorial Scholarship was awarded through the Worcester Educational Development Foundation. It has been a permanent scholarship fund at Greater Worcester Community Foundation since August 2018.

For more information, please contact:
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