



Dr. Steven McGregor Demorest was born August 24, 1959 in Detroit, Michigan, and died September 22, 2019 in Evanston, Illinois after a 20-month battle with a form of lung cancer that – much like him – was very rare. True to his wishes, he passed peacefully at home with his family and loyal dog by his side.

Steven devoted his life to his career and his family. He had a sharp wit and loved travel and golf. He was a Professor of Music Education at Northwestern University, after beginning his career at the University of North Texas and spending 21 years at the University of Washington. Steven completed his undergraduate work at Luther College, where he worked closely and built a lifelong relationship with Weston Noble. He received his Master's from Westminster Choir College and had the exceptional experience of performing at the Spoleto Festival and in New York City. He completed his PhD at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where he credits his advisor for teaching him how to ask hard questions that better the work. Throughout his life, he tenaciously and honestly

pursued the highest quality research.

Steven had a curious mind and published regularly. He was most notably driven by the belief that singing should not be reserved for a chosen few, but can be a communal way to celebrate, mourn, find joy, and express ourselves. He will be remembered by his family and many others through song.

Steven spent many years missing his sister, Julie, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his parents Allan Demorest and Laurel Demorest, wife Karen Tollenaar Demorest, daughters Jessica Tollenaar Cafferty and Claire McGregor Demorest, son-in-law Jacob Cafferty and grandson Varden Cafferty, dog Akila, and extended family and friends who love him deeply.

*Services will be held Sunday, October 13 at 3 pm at Mary B. Galvin Recital Hall (70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston) with a reception to follow.*

*A second service will be held in Seattle the weekend of October 19. Details to follow.*

*In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern in support of research and travel for graduate students in the Music Education program.*