



# William Montgomery

MAR 28, 1934 - DEC 31, 2023



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# William Montgomery

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**W**illiam Montgomery was born on March 28, 1934 in Waco, Texas. His parents were Layton E Montgomery and Faye Ruth Montgomery. At the age of 14, he left Texas to follow his flute teacher to Illinois. He eventually went to Cornell College in Iowa where he met his wife of 25 years, Kathleen Ann Lewis.

William studied the flute with Richard Morse at Cornell College of Iowa where he earned the B.M.E. degree in music education. He also studied the flute with Marcel Moyse at the Marlboro School and with William Kincaid at the Curtis Institute. He studied chamber music with Marcel Tabuteau at the Curtis Institute and with Adolph Busch at the Marlboro School. He was awarded an M.M. degree in flute performance and music theory and a Ph.D. degree in historical musicology by the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. His Ph.D. dissertation is an extensive study of the life and musical works of the French flutist, Francois Devienne.

William Montgomery was a professor of flute, chamber music, and wind pedagogy at the University of Maryland from 1965 until his retirement in 2016. At the university he served as chair of the University Senate, Director of Graduate Studies in Music, Chairman of the Summer Senior Scholars Program, and Chairman of the Wind & Percussion Division. His unique genre-oriented Flute Master Class was presented at the University of Maryland every summer for over 35 years. His former students hold positions with many universities, conservatories, and orchestras in the United States and Europe, and they have been selected as prize winners in many national and international competitions.

William was the solo flutist with the Theater Chamber Players, the director of and soloist with the Montgomery Chamber Ensemble, and he appeared as soloist or chamber musician with many musical organizations such as the New York Philharmonic Octet, the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, the Gueneri String Quartet, and the Cassatt String Quartet. He made his New York City debut in a solo recital at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1960 and subsequently performed numerous solo recital tours in the United States and Europe. Dr. Montgomery performed as principal flutist with the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, the National Gallery of Art



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Orchestra, the Washington Opera, the Washington Chamber Orchestra, and the U. S. Marine Corps Band.

Dr. Montgomery's biographical notices appear in the 2008 Who's Who in America, International Who's Who in Music, Who's Who in American Music: Classical, Who's Who in the East, the National Social Directory, Outstanding Young Men of America, and others.

Dr. Montgomery was the producer of the weekly Friday Noon Concert Series at the historic Arts Club of Washington where he presented over 500 concerts. He also served for many years as a trustee of the endowment at the Arts Club. He served one term as president of the National Flute Association (an organization of over 4000 active members) and was the program chairman for the NFA conventions in Atlanta and Denver. He was a member of the board of directors of the Marcel Moyse Society, president of the Flute Society of Washington, a contributor to the New Grove Dictionary of Music, a member of the board of advisors for Flute Talk magazine, a contributing editor and member of the board of advisors for Instrumentalist magazine, and an author of dozens of articles on the flute and flute playing. He was a member of the Arts Panel for the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts, served as a consultant to the Music Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C., and was a member of the U. S. Fulbright Selection Committee in Music.

William was physically active his entire life. He enjoyed sailing, swimming, jogging, biking, and skiing for much of his life. At various points he took up hang gliding, sky diving, held a small plane pilots license and enjoyed motorcycle trips.

William is predeceased by his partner of 25 years, Carolyn Thomas. He is survived by his 3 children: Layton Howard Montgomery (Janaki Gharti-Magar) of Melbourne, Australia; Scott Lewis Montgomery (Jodie Montgomery) of Lutz, Florida; and Claudia Cathleen Hays of Nelson, New Zealand; and 6 grandchildren: Samuel Montgomery, Sarah Kate Wilder (Gannon Wilder), Susan Smith (Cody Smith), Matthew Hays, Emily Hays, and Kai Gharti-Magar; and 2 great grandchildren: Hunter Smith and Hazel Smith.

Please listen to JS Bach, Air on a G String as you remember Bill.



## Tribute Wall

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SR

**Susan Roth** posted:

I am sorry for your loss. He was someone my father knew and loved. While going through papers of my grandmother Willie Newman, I found remembrances of young Bill Montgomery that I posted to Ancestry. There is a 3 x 5 card dated Jan. 1940 that says he appreciates and participates in all music activities, and concerning Rhythm: Excellent. Good co-ordination His great aunt also saved his handwritten thank you note upon his high school graduation, when he told her he would be going to Cornell College in Iowa in the fall 1950.

May 27 at 7:48 AM

JS

**Julie Stone** posted:

Dr. Montgomery had a profound impact on many flutists and I know I would not be where I am today without his mentorship. He was a true force of nature. I recall when I auditioned for him he had broken his back but he was still hearing auditions flat on his back!

January 26 at 2:51 AM

CH

**Claudia Hays** February 16 at 8:56 AM

This is wonderful to hear, thank you

CM

**Christine F Moulton** posted:

Bill was an active contributor to all the meetings of the Marcel Moyse Society whenever he was at the NFA conventions. I admired his clarity and perspective. He seemed to always emanate calmness and authority that came from experience and it was always uplifting and a delight to see and chat with him. He is missed. Christine Moulton, secretary of the Marcel Moyse Society.

January 15 at 10:09 AM

CH

**Claudia Hays** February 16 at 8:57 AM

Thank you for your kind words Christine.



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AG

**Alexandra Gilbert** posted:

I believe I was part of the last class of flutists that Dr. Montgomery admitted to the University of Maryland for the 2015-2016 school year. I grew up hearing all about him from my high school teacher and a friend of mine from church, Roy Hakes. Roy had been the UMD Flute Studio pianist for many years and would accompany me as I played in church services. I was told all about Dr. Montgomery's many accomplishments, as well as his intense teaching methods, so I never expected to get into UMD. However, at my audition almost exactly nine years ago, I entered the room as a terrified and unconfident young flutist, but shockingly left believing in myself. As I finished playing. Dr. Montgomery asked if I would consider adding a performance degree to my education degree because he believed that I would succeed in doing both. This moment completely changed my life and helped me to grow into a proud and confident flutist and music educator. I respected him immensely, and his support meant the world to me. He helped me to see my potential and to have faith in myself. I actually had the honor of seeing Dr. Montgomery just a few weeks ago as several UMD music alumni and I were able to induct him into UMD's chapter of ODK. I shared my story and thanks with him and feel that I was truly meant to see him one more time. I had to let him know what he meant to me. Thank you for everything, Dr. Montgomery.

January 13 at 7:20 PM

CH

**Claudia Hays** February 16 at 8:55 AM

Thank you for the beautiful comments

BT

**Brynton T.** planted a grove of 10 Memorial Trees in honor of William.



January 11 at 7:28 PM



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**Sarah Bonta** posted:

I studied flute with Dr Montgomery from 2003-2007 at University of Maryland. Few people have had as profound an impact on my life and career as he has. He was a tough and challenging teacher, but in his own way he showed that he believed in me at times when I didn't believe in myself. He also sought out financial aid opportunities for me and even hired me to organize his extensive music library, knowing there were limitations to my resources to pay for the many expenses involved with studying music performance. He pushed me to pursue academic opportunities I never would have otherwise. He activated a grit in me that has been so critical, not only in my career but in my life, and I will be forever grateful for his impact.

January 5 at 7:14 PM



**Pamela Sinnett** June 3 at 7:53 AM

My experience was 1968 to 1971, and he was a great teacher. He did insist on your concentrating and memorizing too. He taught being physically fit too. He influenced me for good for sure.



**Robert Fenwick** May 16 at 9:08 AM

I was a student of Dr. Montgomery many years ago, 1971 -1973. Our lessons were at his small studio in the basement of a building on Baltimore Avenue in College Park, Md. His was a stern, unrelenting task master, but at the same time he was a caring and sharing mentor who saw your potential even when you didn't see it yourself. After all these years, I still think of him often. His training and life lessons have served me well all these years. I thank him for what he saw and instilled in me.



**Claudia Hays** January 11 at 8:00 AM

Thank you for the kind words Sarah



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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