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# Stephen Hill

## Stephen hill gospel singer obituary

Stephen Hill pictured with his family (picture from his website) Singer/songwriter Stephen Hill passed away today. He was in North Carolina when he suffered a heart attack and died unexpectedly. Hill played and sang for more than 30 years. He was known for his soloist appearances in the Gaither Homecoming Series. He also taught voice and guitar lessons at Stamps Baxter School of Music. He was 55 years old. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Several artists have expressed their condolences on Twitter: Sheri Easter - My heart is breaking for Stephen Hill's family. Pray for them. Stephen was an incredible, gentle man whose presence filled a room. Karen Peck Gooch - Our hearts are broken at the passing of Stephen Hill. Precious friend. The sky gets sweeter.) Wes Hampton -- Just talked to Jeff Easter who confirmed that Stephen Hill passed away tonight from a heart attack. I'm devastated. What a precious man Gordon Mote - I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Stephen Hill. He was an incredible singer, and an even better person. We're going to miss him. Tim Duncan - A very sad day. Stephen Hill was a great friend and a wonderful wonderful person On the evening of August 5, 2012, the Gaither Homecoming family of artists was shocked to hear that one of their own had passed away, suddenly and unexpectedly. Stephen Hill was in the middle of a routine soundcheck for a solo concert like Sunday night, when he experienced a massive heart attack that ended his life. But this gentle giant leaves a legacy of faith, laughter and love that will long survive the 55 years he spent on earth. A loving husband and father, Stephen is survived by Kathy, his wife of 34 years, as well as his children, Melody, Miriam and Caleb. He became involved with the Lord as an adult and was an avid Bible student and an ordained Baptist priest, known for his gentle and loving demeanor and great sense of humor. Stephen was also a lifelong musician, singer and songwriter whose music touched people in many countries around the world and whose voice can be heard on dozens of albums by popular artists such as Dolly Parton, Marie Osmond, Jake Hess, George Younce, Jessy Dixon, Mark Lowry and others. When Ben Speer was introduced to the long tenor's unmistakable talent, he passed words along with Bill Gaither, and Stephen became a regular on the Gaither Homecoming video series for over 15 years. He was also a backing vocalist on the Nashville Network's Prime Time Country TV show. And he wrote many great songs over the years, including Why Can't All God's Children Get Along, which was nominated for the Gospel Music Association's Song of the Year in 2010. At his homewalking service on August 13 in Nashville, Tenn., family and friends gathered to sing, to mourn, to share memories and to celebrate Stephen's life. A star-studded chorus of more 80 filled the stage at Grace Church of the Nazarene, including Bill Gaither, Ben Speer, Jason Crabb, Lynda Randle, The Martins, The Booth Brothers, Isaacs, Ivan Parker, Gene McDonald, Jeff & Sheri Easter and too many more to mention. [The Homecoming choir sings along with Stephen's video tribute] Buddy Greene began the ceremony, the wailing tones of his harmonica filling the air with the old classic, Amazing Grace, along with the swelling hum of the choir and featuring Mandy Barnett as the soloist. One of Stephen's closest friends and his partner in crime, Woody Wright, made opening remarks and then performed Stephen's song Pray, Pray, Pray with Reggie and Ladye Love Smith. It became a true service as the choir and various soloists sang songs written by Stephen, as well as other songs of praise. A beautiful a cappella arrangement of It Is Well with My Soul was sung by the female trio Sisters, as the familiar hymn was the last song performed by Stephen Hill. Equally stirring was when the choir joined a tearful Ben Speer in singing Precious Lord, Take My Hand. Later, Bill mentioned that Stephen had one foot in the country and the other in black gospel, and he wore both shoes well, as he introduced Angela Primm, who had everyone on her feet singing along with O Happy Day. And Woody Wright gave a wonderful performance of Go Rest High on that mountain, along with Tony and Regina King. (Pictured right: Woody and the choir celebrate their dear friend's life) Meaningful messages were shared by Pastors Jim Wooten and George Bates. Wooten quipped that Stephen could sing the phone book and make it special. Bates spoke of the authenticity of this amazing singer and chosen servant of God, saying that Stephen was as committed and happy performing for a handful of people in a storefront church as he was before tens of thousands at the Georgia Dome. Bates also joked that Stephen would call him sometimes saying I've sinned, Like Bates, knowing the singer's propensity for speeding, would answer, How fast did you go? Others shared touching and often humorous memories of the man many Homecoming friends knew as Mega Daddy, who can be quite a prankster. Longtime friend Marvin King said that Stephen could sing harmony with a dog whistle, and revealed how Stephen had loved to torment him. Every year on Marvin's birthday, Stephen and his wife Kathy would call him and sing Happy Birthday to him -- at about 4:30 in the morning! And Stephen's daughter Miriam told toe smoke about how much she loved her father and how she was so grateful for the kind of man that he was. During jokes and tears, it became clear that Stephen Hill's life had a big impact on many. His soulful tenor clearly rang over the audience once again as a video tribute was shown, and everyone went into the closing song that Stephen had Why can't all god's children get along? One thing is certain - this tall, gentle man will be loved and remembered far beyond his years spent on earth. [Woody and Stephen perform in Sweden during their annual Christmas tour.] Many artists have also posted their thoughts via Facebook and Twitter: RIP Stephen Hill... You were a gentle giant... You'll be missed. Ernie Haase My heart breaks for Stephen Hill's family. Pray for them. Stephen was an incredible, gentle man whose presence filled a room. -- Sheri Easter Temporary farewell to my friend Stephen Hill. I will miss your funky mountain stones, your gentle soul and brilliant wit. -- Tanya Goodman Sykes So sad to lose Stephen Hill. He was a singer's singer--and he had a heart as big as he was... -- Janet Paschal We are saddened by the loss of our dear friend Stephen Hill. Wonderful man! Please keep the entire Hill family in your prayers. Our hearts are stunned and utterly shattered by Stephen Hill's extremely sudden passing. Please keep his sweet family in your prayers. -- Dean Hopper Our prayers go out to our friend Stephen Hill's family... the sky's run just took up everything about three keys higher. :) -- Lauren Talley Alvey I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Stephen Hill. He was an incredible singer, and an even better person. We're going to miss him. -- Gordon Mote Memorial video and party service information has now been added to this time-on-time story about the loss of our friend, Stephen Hill. New tasks are marked with asterisks (\*). Thank you all for your prayers and for the hundreds of kind comments we have received honoring Stephen's life and music. \*In memory of Stephen Hill\* 1956 -- 2012 \*Message Posted Monday Morning, August 7\* Stephen Hill Remembered The Homecoming family is extremely sorry to announce that our dear friend, Stephen Hill, passed away suddenly on Sunday night, August 5. Stephen was in the middle of an audio check before a solo concert in Lumberton, North Carolina, when he suffered a massive heart attack that took his life. He was 55 years old. Stephen has appeared on dozens of Homecoming DVDs and television specials both as a soloist and a group singer. In addition to his participation in Homecoming recordings and a full schedule of solo concerts, Stephen has lent his talent as a session singer to a wide range of recordings of country and gospel greats including Marie Osmond, George Younce, Jake Hess, Jessy Dixon, Dolly Parton, Mark Lowry, and many others. Stephen was a gentle giant with a kind, soft-spoken nature and a tenor voice as versatile as it was beautiful. He had a sincere heart for people and for sharing the hope of Christ with the audience throughout his career. He was much loved by his friends, family and the music world. Stephen is by his wife, Kathy, and their children Melody, Miriam and Caleb. Keep the family in prayer as they cope with this sudden, tragic loss. \*NEW\* A celebration service honoring Stephen Hill's life will be held at Grace Church of the Nazarene in Nashville on Monday, August 13 at 3pm (Grace Church of the Nazarene is located opposite the Opry/Opryland Hotel. Below is one of the last things Stephen posted on his Facebook page. This tender gentleman will be sorely missed. In loving memory Stephen Hill 1956-2012 In Loving Memory Stephen Hill 1956-2012 In Loving Memory of Stephen Hill in loving memory Stephen Hill 1956-2012 "Nashville, TN -- Stephen Hill, a gospel singer/songwriter who regularly appeared in Bill & Gloria Gaither's popular Homecoming series of videos, CDs and concerts, died Sunday, Aug 5. He was 55. Mr. Hill, who taught at Ben Speer's Stamps Baxter School of Music in Nashville, was in Lumberton, N.C for a concert at Antioch Baptist Church, when he was hit by the attack. He performed Friday, Aug. 3, during gospel legends reunion at Goodlettsville Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Raised in Greenville, South Carolina, Mr. Hill was known for his powerful and versatile tenor voice, as well as for being a man of kindness and humor whose favorite quotes came from sources that included Andy Griffith, Ernest Hemingway, Jesus Christ and General Stonewall Jackson. Three days before his death, Mr. Hill wrote on his Facebook account, We can't judge, and it's hard. Loving people doesn't mean changing them. It's even harder. I hope He gives me a break when I see Him face to face. I also hope that He will forgive the mistakes I make in my zeal. Love and forgiveness. Mr Hill is survived by wife Kathy Hill and children Melody, Miriam and Caleb." Singing News Southern Gospel Music Obituaries Obituaries

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