



Emily Holzer

November 24, 1989 - October 21, 2020

Emily Holzer, 30, passed away October 21, 2020, in Tarzana, CA. She was born November 24, 1989, in Lawndale, CA. In March 1990 Emily and her family moved to Fallbrook, CA. Emily grew up in Fallbrook attending Live Oak Elementary School, Potter Junior High School, and Fallbrook High School (FHS). All four high school years Emily played in the percussion section of the FHS Marching Warriors, an activity she loved. She especially enjoyed playing marimba with four mallets. She received an award for “Outstanding Percussion.” Emily graduated from FHS in 2007.

Emily studied piano under Charlotte Atkinson from age 8 to 17. She then majored in piano performance at the University of Redlands, studying piano under Louanne Long. At Redlands she also took organ lessons from Fred Swan. She enjoyed playing the Casavant Organ in the Memorial Chapel, often into wee hours of the night. Emily sang in the university choir for four years, including the annual Feast of the Lights at Christmas season. Emily studied piano pedagogy and taught many students at the Redlands Community School of Music. Emily also spent a semester abroad (Spring 2010) in Salzburg, Austria, where she enjoyed many musical performances, and especially the organ concerts. Emily graduated from University of Redlands with her Bachelor’s of Music degree in piano performance in 2011. She loved her four years at Redlands, fully immersed in music.

After Redlands, Emily decided to further her organ studies. For two years she studied under Alison Luedecke in San Diego. Next she studied organ for two years at the USC Thornton School of Music in Los Angeles, CA under Cherry Rhodes.

While studying organ Emily also worked as an organist. Her first organist position was at Saint Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church, Temecula, CA from 2011 to 2013. Next she served as the organist/pianist for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Rancho Peñasquitos, CA, from 2013 to 2017.

From 2017 to 2018 Emily was organist at King of Kings Lutheran Church, Oceanside, CA. During 2019 she was organist at Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran Church, Carlsbad, CA.

Emily was active in the Palomar Chapter of the AGO from 2011 to 2020. She played organ and piano in many concerts. She was secretary from 2016 to 2018. In June 2020 she was adjudicator for Palomar Chapter scholarship auditions. Emily was a student member of the chapter and eventually became full-fledged member. Emily participated in master classes and attended a Pipe Organ Encounter in Nashville, TN in 2005. Emily also enjoyed attending the 2015 Regional Convention in San Diego with her mother Cheryl Holzer, also an organist.

In May 2019 Emily moved to Los Angeles. She was a member of the Los Angeles Chapter of the AGO, 2019 to 2020, while also remaining active in the Palomar Chapter.

Emily was a member of the Music Teachers' Association (MTAC) 2011 to 2020. She loved teaching piano students of all ages. Emily coached many young piano students through the Certificate of Merit program. Emily was uniquely qualified to mentor students through this program because as a student, Emily had successfully passed Level 9.

Emily is survived by her parents Peter and Cheryl Holzer, Grandmother Margaret Holzer, brothers Kevin and Adam Holzer (Addie), sister Rebecca Holzer, and numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins. Emily will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and students.

Written by Peter Holzer, Emily's father
Photo by Bill Ahrend