



Bianca "Blanche" L. Porto

September 3, 1927 - December 14, 2016

Bianca "Blanche" Lucibelli Porto, daughter of the late Rudolfo E. and Christina Amendola Lucibelli, predeceased by her husband of 59 years, George R. Porto. Born September 3, 1927 in New Haven where she lived for more than 60 years before moving to North Haven in 1995.

She graduated from Albertus Magnus College and obtained a Masters Degree from Southern CT State University (SCSU). Following her classroom teaching for the East Haven and Hamden School systems, she became a licensed Speech/Hearing and Language Pathologist, retiring from the Derby Public School system in 1989.

For almost 60 years, she enjoyed a rich and successful career as a mezzo soprano in opera, oratorio, chamber ensembles and song recitals. In 1979, she sang her debut recital at Carnegie Hall and appeared as a soloist with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, CT Symphony Orchestra, Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, CT Opera Association and the late New Haven Opera Co. She was a soloist for many years in area churches including St. Joseph's, St. Mary's, Sacred Heart, United Church and Center Church on the Green.

From 1994-2007, she was a singer and board member with the Schola Cantorum of the St. Gregory Society, a choral ensemble dedicated to the performance of Gregorian plainchant and sacred polyphony in the sung Latin

Mass.

Blanche was a member of The Third Order of St. Dominic, a Dominican lay fraternity dedicated to prayer, study and community life.

She traveled extensively to Europe, studied art while there and made several trips to Italy. In July 1989, while on a 22-day pilgrimage to Italy, France, Austria, Germany & Belgium, she wrote "one of the best adventures of my life....peaceful, religious, thoughtful and diversely interesting."

She was a political activist in the city of New Haven and a Ward Committee member for many years, participated in the Polarization Conference at Sterling Forest, NY sponsored by The Ford Foundation which involved leaders of the New Haven community.

She was an Advisory Board member of the Italian American Community Committee formed at SCSU, a panelist of The Italians in History of New Haven sponsored by The New Haven Historical Society, a member of The New Haven County of Retired Teachers, The Association of Retired Teachers of CT and a life member of The CT Speech Language and Hearing Association.

In her retirement, she enjoyed giving private vocal instruction, painting, calligraphy and sewing.

Blanche is survived by two sisters, Theresa Lucibelli and Clara Palleria, and five children, Paula (Anthony) Santagata, Monica (Dominic) Contessa, Carla (Randall) Boucher, George D. (Diane Michaud) Porto and Dominica (Tod) Baharian, nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral from Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3105 Whitney Ave. Hamden
Monday at 9:30 a.m., Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. Joseph
Church, New Haven. Burial in All Saints Cemetery. Calling hours are Sunday
from 3 - 7 p.m. In lieu of flowers contributions to St. Jude's Children's Hospital,
262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. To leave an online
condolence please visit www.siskbrothers.com

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

700 Middletown Ave.
North Haven, CT

Previous Events

Calling hours

DEC 18. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 288-7114
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

Funeral service

DEC 19. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Josephs Church
Edwards St.
New Haven, CT

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Dear George and Diane,

I once had the pleasure of accompanying and conducting your mother, and many times Mary Ellen and I marveled at your devotion to your family as next door neighbors. You, your family, and Diane will be in our thoughts and prayers, and may her memory be for a blessing.

Kevin and Mary Ellen Mack

Dr. Kevin Mack - December 22, 2016 at 08:35 AM

DL

“ Family Porto:

I see that "Bianca" had passed on the 14th, which according to the meaning of biblical numbers is a double measure of Spiritual Perfection! It also represents deliverance & salvation. The Term 14th is found 24 times in scripture. SEE biblestudy.org for the "The Beauty of Gods Word" & the Number 14 or 14th. My condolences to everyone in the Porto Family, including the friends of Blanca Porto. Bianca was obviously a very hard worker who was truly talented & gifted in whatever she pursued. She has not only left her treasures of keepsake behind, including her (Teaching, Music, Paintings etc.) but she has also left "Wonderful Memories" for the entire family to share.

*Debra Kay Levi
Blessings to All*

Debra Levi - December 18, 2016 at 02:05 PM

GS

“ *An old musical friend of Blanche, sang with her at United & Center Churches for almost 40 ears, a fine mezzo soprano and gracious lady with whom I did duets now and then. So sorry to hear of her passing, I am now 90 years old and fondly remember our times together. George Spear*

George Spear - December 18, 2016 at 01:55 PM

NA

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. When I think of your mother - what comes to mind immediately is her laugh and zest for life and her beautiful friendship with my mother. may she rest in PEACE and SING FOREVER!*
Nita Angeletti

Nita Angeletti - December 18, 2016 at 08:35 AM

MM

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Blanche Porto. I will always remember her beautiful voice. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Mary Mazzacane*

Mary Mazzacane - December 17, 2016 at 01:54 PM

NT

“ *Blanche Porto had a mesmerizing voice. When I was in the third grade--almost 60 years ago---I had the privilege to visit the Porto home on Foster Street and I heard Mrs. Porto singing---I think while doing housework. It was one of those jolting life-changing moments. There was coffee on the table and a lot of activity, but her voice presided over the possible chaos of a lot of children and soared me into a love of beautiful voices that has lasted me all my life. Having heard her, I was able to find my way to the ineffable pleasures of the opera.*

I never knew quite how to thank her (and am sorry I did not) but I'll always remember the first time I heard her voice....and the almost 60 years of musical ecstasy it engendered in me.

Natalie Tyler - December 17, 2016 at 10:15 AM

DB

Oh Natalie I can see the pictures you have painted here, this was my kitchen where I grew up! What a lasting and moving tribute to my mother. You have blessed me with this and your beautiful memory of my mother and what her singing did for you.

God bless you and thank you for sharing this.

Fondly,

Dominica Porto Baharian

dominica porto baharian - December 17, 2016 at 04:29 PM

KA

What a privilege it was to have Mrs. Porto sing at my wedding! And, what a beautifully written tribute by Natalie!

karen - December 19, 2016 at 07:10 AM

KV

“ *George and Family*

Sending you our deepest sympathies and love. May the memories of your mother warm your hearts today and always.

Ken and Shelley (Michaud) Valentine - December 17, 2016 at 08:43 AM

CB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*

Carla Porto Boucher - December 17, 2016 at 07:10 AM

CB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*

Carla Porto Boucher - December 17, 2016 at 07:08 AM

MP

“ Blessings and the God given Peace to the Porto family,
It has been a pleasure knowing "Blanche" to whom I had the
pleasure to call her "Bianca".
Truly an amazing woman in the 5 years I got to know her. When I
first met her she sang so beautifully. May God continue to bless you
all and have the newfound peace that only he can give you knowing
she is resting in peace.

God Bless
Mabel Perry
Meadow Mills

Mabel Perry - December 16, 2016 at 12:52 PM

DV

“ Dear Carla, Randy , Monica and Family,

*My sincere and deepest condolences for you and your family on the
loss of your mother. My prayers are there for you all. Just know she
is in pure peace and will always be in your life watching and guiding
you. If you believe, you will feel and see it all around you. All my
blessings,*

Glenn Vitale

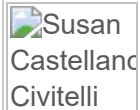
Dr. Glenn Vitale - December 16, 2016 at 09:11 AM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family
of Bianca "Blanche" L. Porto.



December 16, 2016 at 08:42 AM



“ Dear Porto and Lucibelli families,
Please accept my condolences on the passing of your beloved Blanche. I was blessed enough to have her sing at my Nuptial Mass in 1976. Her renditions of the 'Ave Maria' and 'This is my Beloved' were beautiful, unmatched to this day. Her singing brought tears to my eyes and to all those present in church. I will never forget the beauty she shared with everyone that morning.
Remember that each tear you shed is another note added to the song of love she hears on her way to the loving arms of Jesus Christ. She leaves a wonderful legacy...her gift of music; more importantly she leaves to all of you her legacy of love. Blanche will always be with you because of the memories you of her you carry in your hearts.
May God bless you.
With sympathy and prayers.
Susan Castellano-Civitelli
"I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love."
~ Leo Buscaglia ~

Susan Castellano-Civitelli - December 16, 2016 at 08:26 AM

DB

Dear Susan,
Your kind words at this time are so far reaching. I'm so touched by how my mother influenced and moved the world and people around her. She was so dearly loved and admired. Thank you Susan for sharing your heart with us. It truly blessed us.
Dominica Porto Baharian

dominica baharian - December 16, 2016 at 09:15 AM

AF

“ To Paula and family, we send our sincere sympathy on the loss of your mother. We will keep all of you in our prayers. Love and God Bless you, Anna & Joe Ferretti

Anna Ferretti - December 15, 2016 at 11:22 PM

AF

“ To Paula and family, we sent our sincere condolences on the kids of your mother. We will keep you in our prayers. Love, Anna & Joe Ferretti

Anna Ferretti - December 15, 2016 at 11:19 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Carla Porto Boucher - December 15, 2016 at 08:53 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carla Porto Boucher - December 15, 2016 at 08:48 PM