



## Brett Austin Terry

June 6, 1987 - February 27, 2019

Brett Austin Terry, 31, formerly of Bartlesville, died Wednesday in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Brett will be missed by all who saw his light.

Brett was born the son of Lee Terry and Susan Luella (Howarth) Brooks on June 6, 1987, in Bartlesville. He was homeschooled through 8th grade and developed a love for music at a young age. Brett attended Bartlesville High School and was active in the performing arts, excelling in music, drama and orchestra. The highlight of his senior year was when Brett was cast in the role of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*. Brett graduated with the Class of 2005, and had already become a sought-after organist. He played the organ for many churches including First Presbyterian and First United Methodist Church in Bartlesville. He was an accomplished recitalist, teacher, choir director, freelance musician and accompanist to many groups such as OK Mozart Festival's Solisti New York Orchestra members, as well as music director-conductor for many musical theatre productions and house concerts.

After his high school graduation, he furthered his education at University of Missouri (UMKC) Conservatory in Kansas City, graduating with degrees in both organ and vocal performance. He also served as president and vice-president of American Choral Directors Association, Kansas City chapter. Brett went onto graduate studies at Yale, earning a Masters degree in organ performance. He worked as a teaching assistant and organist for major university events and ceremonies. He also directed music for Yale Divinity School and Institute of Sacred Music's daily chapel services, from constructing liturgies to managing budgets and bulletins.

As a professional, he served as music director at Grace Episcopal in Kansas City, Missouri; Southminster Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas; Scarsdale Congregational Church in Scarsdale, New York; and--most recently--Pine St. Presbyterian in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. From 2013 to 2014, he was the interim director of chapel music at the Yale Divinity School and Institute of Sacred Music. He also served as director of the Central Pennsylvania Oratorical Society and dean of Harrisburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Brett's passion in life was music. He shared his God-given talents by giving concerts, working in the classical music community, and performing throughout the Northeast, in his home state of Oklahoma, as well as in Missouri and Kansas. He was committed to his craft, and worked tirelessly to perfect his skill. He was loved and admired by his colleagues, church family, and many who knew him.

Brett is survived by his father Lee Terry and wife, Cyndi, of Harrah, OK; mother Susan Brooks and husband, Jim, of Bartlesville; paternal grandmother Delores Fadeley of Harrah; maternal grandmother Luella Howarth of Bartlesville; sisters Karalee Sitnik and husband, Geoffrey, of Austin, TX, and Summer Long and husband, Cody, of Canute, OK; and his nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his paternal grandfather Haskell Terry, maternal grandfather William Howarth, and brother Ryan Patrick Terry.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 10-8 at the Davis Family Funeral Home – Walker Brown Chapel (918-333-7665), 4201 Nowata Road, Bartlesville, OK.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. on Friday, March 8, at the Adams Blvd. Church of Christ, with Mr. Jody Burch officiating. Services are under the direction and care of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at <http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com>.

# Events

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**MAR** **Visitation** 09:00AM - 08:00PM

**6**

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Davis Family Funeral Home - Walker Brown Chapel  
4201 Nowata Rd, Bartlesville, OK, US, 74006

**MAR** **Celebration Of Life Service** 11:00AM

**8**

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Adams Boulevard Church of Christ  
3700 SE Adams Blvd, Bartlesville, OK, US, 74006

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Davis Family Funeral Home** - March 07, 2019 at 05:30 PM

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“ I was honored to have Brett as one of my closest friends. His mind was razor sharp and his heart was loving and patient. Undoubtedly Brett was one of the most selfless and intelligent people I ever knew. What a combination! I feel like we knew each other for years, yet in reality it wasn't even two. Even still, in this short time he had a profound impact on my life. The world lost a tremendous force of good with Brett's passing, and I hope that we who knew him will do him honor by picking up where he left off. I hope that we will bring out the very best in everyone we meet, remain a force of calm in difficult situations, accept and love others for their true selves, always stand up for what is right, never stop learning and growing, and all the while caring for ourselves so we can care for others. We have some big shoes to fill, but, incredibly, Brett has prepared and empowered each of us for this task. Brett not only lives on in our memories. Brett lives on in the light he's inspired us to bring into the world.

**Christopher Prestia** - March 10, 2019 at 10:08 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Brett Austin Terry.



March 09, 2019 at 01:54 PM

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“ I remember Brett from high school. We didn't talk much after he left for college but I always knew he was going places. He had always been so kind to me and everyone around him. During HAIR he always made rehearsals a fun but learning experience. I remember going on some friend dates. I remember being absolutely floored with every performance. The world has lost a truly great soul. I don't like giving flowers. They are tough to throw away. I will be happy to send a monetary gift to wherever it might be needed if possible. All my thoughts to close friends and family.

**Kate Strycker** - March 09, 2019 at 01:16 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Brett Austin Terry.



March 08, 2019 at 07:15 AM

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“ I have so many memories of Brett. As his high school theatre teacher, I watched from the darkened house as Brett took the stage and filled the space with light. He was a talented performer, a strong leader, a natural teacher and a compassionate mentor. I have so, so many memories of him when he was the Music Director for our production of Hair (he was only 16 at the time). And him leading warmups in class and on stage, saying "Breathe into yojr diaphragm! Try to make your belly as big as mine. You won't be able to do it, but try!" I remember his smile. I remember him wearing a toga on stage. I remember the way he had if making everyone around him feel special. I remember Brett. Always will. What a loss to the world.

**Susan Crabtree** - March 07, 2019 at 07:01 PM

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“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Brett Austin Terry.



March 06, 2019 at 05:10 PM



“ As the Mid High chemistry teacher, I knew Brett to be a respectful, kind, talented young man. It was my pleasure to see him perform in Les Miserables on the new Bartlesville High stage...he was great! It is our loss that he is gone so soon.

**Colleen Bennett** - March 06, 2019 at 05:04 PM

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“ Kevin & Evelyn Wyinginger purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Brett Austin Terry.



**Kevin & Evelyn Wyinginger** - March 06, 2019 at 10:36 AM

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“ Brett was a rare combination: an astoundingly gifted musician, a deeply spiritual man, and someone who genuinely cared for others. In the brief time I was blessed to know him, I was personally on the receiving end of all three wonderful aspects of his nature. The world has lost a very, very bright light. We are promised a glorious reunion down the road, by the One who keeps His promises... and won't we make some flawless music then! Our thoughts and prayers are lifting up Brett's family and friends, and the many who knew him longer, or more closely, than I did.

Terry Barber, Swatara, PA  
past president, Central Pennsylvania Oratorio Singers



**Terry Barber** - March 05, 2019 at 09:26 PM

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“ I had the pleasure and honor to sing in the PA oratorio society with Brett as director. He was always prepared, professionally, and positive in his conduct and comments, and I loved his wry sense of humor and funny comments when we sang wrong notes or otherwise “messed up.” His patience with us was incredible; I was blessed to have this experience with such a talented and caring young man. My deepest sympathy is extended to his family at this time.

**kathleen miller** - March 05, 2019 at 09:16 PM

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“ Leslie Sexson lit a candle in memory of Brett Austin Terry



**Leslie Sexson** - March 05, 2019 at 07:54 PM

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“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Brett Austin Terry.



March 05, 2019 at 06:44 PM

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“ Linda Banks lit a candle in memory of Brett Austin Terry



**Linda Banks** - March 05, 2019 at 05:44 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Brett Austin Terry.



March 05, 2019 at 11:37 AM