



## Clarissa Lablache Cheer

September 25, 1934 - May 4, 2023

Clarissa Lablache Cheer was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Born just before the Second World War in Southampton, England, she was the only daughter of an Oxford educated teacher father and a creative artist and writer mother. Clarissa married Sam Cheer at the young age of 21 and then after the birth of their first child the young couple emigrated to the United States. They were married 66 years and 8 months.

Clarissa studied European art history and painting at Southampton College of Art, graduating with what is equivalent to a Bachelor of Arts. She then launched a career as a talented freelance artist and muralist. Her creativity crossed into many areas over the years, including becoming a clothing designer and dressmaker. During this time she had her own design company, "Clarissa of California."

She enjoyed gardening, jewelry making, cooking and floral design-eventually expanding her dry flower arrangements into a thriving retail business all while raising five children.

Her later years were spent pursuing her passion for opera as an author, musicologist, screen writer and founder of an opera fan club. She traveled to many operas during those years in the US and abroad. Her opera interests were only equaled by her love of art history and family genealogy. She

authored two books and wrote articles for several opera publications as well as a postcard magazine. She pursued many other interests including collecting shells and postcards. But most important in her heart was her many dear friends and family.

Clarissa passed away peacefully at home in our Lord's presence on May 4th. She is survived by her husband, brother, five children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her family wishes to celebrate her life in a Remembrance ceremony at a future date where we hope your comments and memories can be included.

Please register your interest and/or send us your personal memories of Clarissa for her Remembrance ceremony by writing her daughter care of: [sabeema.ac@gmail.com](mailto:sabeema.ac@gmail.com).

The family asks that instead of sending flowers you consider planting something inspiring in your own garden to remember Clarissa by.

# Tribute Wall

CP

“ *Classissa fell and sustained a shoulder fracture years ago that required therapy. That was how fate brought us together, as I was her therapist. We both enjoyed conversations during her sessions and quickly became great friends.*

*We attended shows to buy components to make jewelry and gem and mineral shows. We joined the shell club and expanded our shell collections by attending shell shows. Clarissa introduced me to vintage post cards and educated me about famous post card artists and, of course, post card shows. I feel that she has been sending me messages from the after life, as since her death, I keep getting Louis Wain post cards on Pinterest.*

*We both loved perusing antique stores and eating out. Clarissa and Sam introduced me to the joyful experience of Dim Sum.*

*I learned so many things from Clarissa about opera history, art history, England, famous cemeteries, her family's history...but most interestingly, the history of Clarissa's life.*

*Cheer was a perfect last name for her as Clarissa was perpetually cheerful and filled with a passion for life and its endless aspects.*

*Clarissa was a wonderfully unique soul who will be sorely missed by many people and certainly myself.*

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**Carol Palmer** - July 24, 2023 at 06:12 PM

MC

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Mark Cheer** - June 23, 2023 at 08:44 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Mark Cheer** - June 18, 2023 at 06:09 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Mark Cheer** - June 18, 2023 at 05:36 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Mark Cheer** - June 18, 2023 at 05:22 PM

LS

“ Dear Clarissa was my affectionate sister-in-law for thirty two years until my separation from her brother at the end of the 90s. Although we didn't see each other often due to distance and the commitment to young families for both of us, I always found her warm, kind and entertaining. When I visited LA in the early 2000s she was immensely hospitable and added hugely to my enjoyment of the trip. I was very impressed when I saw how she had overcome her lack of self confidence in her own intellectual ability to research and write the book about the famous family ancestor Luigi Lablache, and to learn so much about opera which was such a love of hers. All this while bringing up a family of five and running her various successful businesses. I shall miss her lively self. Bless you, Clarissa, rest in peace, with love from Lotte.

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**Lotte Stripling** - June 08, 2023 at 02:02 AM

CL

“ Clarissa was my aunt. My memories of her really started in the late 80s when I was 18 and stayed with her, Sam, Mark and Venise in their house for the summer. It was a fantastic and formative experience for me, and I'll forever be grateful for her hospitality looking after another teenager during that time. After that time I visited LA fairly frequently, including for nine months in 1999 and Clarissa was always a most welcoming and cheerful host. Unfortunately in recent years our contact was less frequent, but we still communicated via e-mail and through Christmas cards. I will miss her.

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**Crispin Little** - June 02, 2023 at 08:53 AM

TL

“ My mom wasn't a typical mom, she was a force of nature. When she set her mind to something, she didn't take no for an answer. With five children to take care of, she knew it was going to be a challenge to make ends meet. So she found lots of creative ways to bring in added income to dad's salary. She started making and selling items at the swap meet. I remember making jewelry or repairing ceramics with her, then getting up early in the mornings to help her sell them and various other things at the swap meet. She started making flower arrangements to put in the ceramics to sell. She expanded that idea into a very successful flower business. I learned a great deal about the retail business from her, as well as having a strong work ethic.

When she decided to write a book about her famous ancestor, opera singer Luigi Lablache, she tracked down every clue, researched each fact by traveling all over to opera houses, churches, libraries, and museums. She reached out to family and friends to help until she was able to put together a tremendous book, chronicling his life and the careers of his family. She published it herself, and though she knew it could have been better, it's an accomplishment that I greatly admire. For me, she was a true inspiration who was able to accomplish so much and wanted to do much more. Her mind was always going, whether it was her hobbies, or helping me with the family genealogy. I could always go to her to hear stories that she remembered in amazing detail. I will miss those talks, but I am grateful for the time that we had, and how much we tried to do together. She inspires me to do more myself. I wish we had more time, but God gave her an 88 years before He called her home to rest at last.

I look forward to seeing you again in heaven, all healthy and young. Thank you mom, I'll love you forever. Teresa



**Teresa Lopez** - May 29, 2023 at 04:05 PM

TL

*Our last visit together at Saint Andrews Chapel in Sanford.*

**Teresa Lopez** - May 29, 2023 at 04:07 PM

LS

“ *Clarissa was my Aunt, she will be sadly missed by many, she was a colourful character, full of life & ideas with a keen interest in family history contributing towards a large family tree. Delving into the large archive of old family photos I've found a few to post here.*



**Lucy Storer** - May 29, 2023 at 07:25 AM

SS

“ *Clarissa my sister was a very talented, enthusiastic and creative collector and writer. In 2009 she published her "The Great Lablache", the life and times of our x3 great grandfather Luigi Lablache, the well known operatic bass singer; and in 2010 had edited and had privately published our mother Cerita's "Edwardian Candlelight", her childhood memories; as well as numerous articles on opera history in which she conducted extensive correspondence over many years. She greatly enjoyed researching family history as well as her collections of dolls, postcards and fashion designs which all demonstrated her considerable artistic abilities. She will be much missed by family and friends. Stephen Stanley-Little UK*

**Stephen Richard Charles James Stanley-Li** - May 25, 2023 at 02:47 AM

CS

“ Clarissa and I had many long lunches, sometimes 5-6 hours, which I truly enjoyed and now remember with love. She had such an interesting life I never tired of hearing about it. I miss her and am so fortunate to have known her.

*Chris Stouffer*

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**Chris Stouffer** - May 22, 2023 at 07:22 PM

RK

“ So sorry to hear about Clarissa. A picture of her and me at a hotel in Torrance is added to the photo page. We both belonged to the writing club that met in Redondo Beach or Torrance, California. It was an interesting group of people and we had well-known writers as speakers at monthly meetings. Our time together in the writing group was one of the best times for me. At one time my daughter and I were having fun helping Clarissa with information on The Cliff House restaurant of San Francisco for an article she was writing for a postcard magazine. I have the Lablache book, so good, and Clarissa accomplished a lot. Clarissa was certainly a fun person and very interesting and I miss her so much. My love to all her family.

*Rosemary Kinsfather*

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**Rosemary Kinsfather** - May 22, 2023 at 06:01 PM

TL

“ 4 files added to the album Clarissa



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**Teresa C Lopez** - May 22, 2023 at 12:43 PM

TL

*These are a few pictures of mom in her younger days and on the day she got married to Sam.*

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**Teresa C Lopez** - May 22, 2023 at 05:28 PM

RM

*Clarissa was a dear friend of mine here in Sanford, FL (near Orlando). We were both members of Spokes Women's Club, and went out to lunch frequently. We also went out to dinner many times together with our husbands. Clarissa was an adventurous person who loved to go with me and our group to visit many local venues such as museums, the FL beaches, and even our crystal clear springs with their boat trips. I loved her funny sense of humor, her English accent and her amazing stories. She and I shared a love of seashells and she was an active member of a local shell club. She was such an interesting person who loved diverse activities and things. I miss her very much, and am so happy to have been her friend for the last 15 years. Our deepest condolences to her family. Robin and Tom McLaren*

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**Robin McLaren** - June 03, 2023 at 01:13 AM