



Stanley Rishoi

December 4, 1934 - August 7, 2025

Stanley Rishoi, age 90, of Alta, Iowa passed away August 7, 2025 at Buena Vista Regional Medical Center in Storm Lake.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, August 12, 2025 from 5-7:00 p.m. at Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. Funeral services will take place Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Storm Lake. Burial will take place Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in Springfield Cemetery in Springfield, South Dakota. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Caring Paws Rescue (Box 54, Storm Lake, IA 50588), Iowa Public Radio (IPR.org/donate) or PBS (800-728-2828). To watch a livestream of the service, click on the following link: https://www.youtube.com/live/4X9-ziK_Ozo?si=AQ1Nvw-oTbzXs9Kv. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Stanley G. Rishoi, age 90, of Alta, Iowa passed away on August 7, 2025 at BVRMC in Storm Lake, Iowa. Stan was born in Milbank, South Dakota on December 4, 1934 to the union of Ada Donna Messner and Stanley Oliver Rishoi. Following the death of his mother, Stan was raised in Aurora and Brookings, South Dakota by his grandparents, Frank and Hattie Messner.

He attended Brookings High School and was active in music and track, where he held the record for the 440 yard dash for several decades and was part of

the track team inducted into the South Dakota Track Hall of Fame.

After graduating from Brookings High School in 1952, Stan enrolled at South Dakota State University majoring in engineering. However, after forming several choirs and a traveling dance band, his advisor suggested he change his major to music.

After graduating from SDSU in 1956 with a major in Music Education, Stan joined the Army and served in the South Dakota National Guard until his honorable discharge.

Stan's first teaching job was in Henry, SD where he taught drafting, biology, shop, chorus, and band. He organized the purchase of band uniforms and recruited the entire high school student body (minus one) to participate in the marching band. During this same year he also directed the First United Methodist Church choir in Watertown, SD and was soon recruited to teach band and vocal music at Watertown High School in 1959. While there, he directed several fully staged high school musicals and also started the Watertown Community Chorus whose polished performances of classic repertoire became the pride of the region. Toward the beginning of his 17-year tenure at WHS, Stan met Sharon Parker, who was hired to teach band, thus allowing Stan to concentrate more fully on choral music. They were married in 1965 and with this union their daughter, Stacey was born.

In 1974, with Stan as the driving force, he, along with five other SD choral conductors, created the South Dakota All-State Honor Choir, a group of 150 of the best high school non-senior vocalists in the state. To make the auditions equitable, it was arranged that each of the four voice types audition for the same judge. To facilitate this, Stan (who was a private pilot and flight instructor) flew the judges to the various audition sites across the state. Those selected were to meet for an intensive week of rehearsals during the summer,

perform a concert and return to their respective high schools to be music leaders, In August of 2024, the SD Honor choir founders were honored as the Choir celebrated it's iconic 50th year. Extra meaningful to this concert was the inclusion of an Alumni choir whose members were varied in age, geography, and vocation. To this day, they continue to draw on their Honor Choir experience.

Stan was a President of the SD Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association and chair for the SD Music Activities Association. He was highly sought after as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator. Stan served five times as local Chair for the South Dakota All-State Chorus and Orchestra and was chosen to be guest conductor in 1975.

That same year, Stan earned a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of South Dakota. The following summer, he joined the staff at the University of Exeter in England, where he conducted the American Youth Choral. In the Fall of 1976, Stan was named Assistant Professor at Yankton College Conservatory of Music. While there, he served as department head as well as President of the International Education Institute which involved the seeking out of outstanding musicians to study and perform in various parts of the U.S., England, and Europe.

After the close of Yankton College, Stan accepted a position as Professor of Music at Buena Vista University in the Fall of 1986, where he remained until his retirement in 1999.

In 1991, in celebration of both BVU's 100th anniversary and the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death, Stan took the BVU choir to New York City to perform Mozart's Requiem with full orchestra at the world-renowned Carnegie Hall.

When Stan retired from BVU, he opened SGR Photo and Camera Repair, taking professional headshots, family photos, and graduation and wedding photos.. At this time, he also served as music director at Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Storm Lake and was the music director for several Buena Vista Community Theatre productions.

Whether building an observatory in the horse pasture, working in his woodshop, taking painting lessons or teaching his nephew to weld, Stan was a life-long learner, teacher, organizer, and supporter of other people's passions.

Stan was an animal lover and had a special place in his heart for dogs. Over the years, he and his wife have had 16 dogs as the locals knew that he would adopt any dog that reminded him of the dalmatian who accompanied him as a little boy with his fishing pole on the way to the pond.

Stan Rishoi is survived by his wife of 37 years, Dr. Lisa Lindeman; daughter: Stacey Erinn (Gustav Andreassen) Rishoi; grandson: Owen Lucas Rishoi Andreassen; half-brother: Tom (Nellie) Rishoi; Stan & Lisa's special friend: Keith Madsen; and wonderful relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **12.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Funeral Service

AUG **13.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Lakeside Presbyterian Church - Storm Lake
110 E. 3rd St.
Storm Lake, IA

Burial

AUG **14.** 1:00 PM.

Springfield Cemetery

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Stanley Rishoi*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 12, 2025 at 05:38 PM

CS

“ *I am so very sorry to hear of this! Stan was a great man, friend and mentor to me. May he rest peacefully with instruments playing as he enters every room! I am sending my love and prayers for the whole family!*

Ciara (Miller) Snyder

Ciara Snyder - September 23, 2025 at 05:13 PM

JS

“ *I'm sorry to read the bad news, partner. Think of you often and hope you are well. Say hi to Becky. John S*

John Sweaney - September 09, 2025 at 10:08 PM

DH

“ We are so sorry to hear the passing of your husband, Dr. Lindeman. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Love and Prayers to you and his family!



Duane & Eldona Hornor - August 15, 2025 at 11:22 PM

DG

“ Doug Grow: In 1965 I was a senior in high school in Watertown, SD. I was a mediocre tenor in a choir directed by Mr. Rishoi, a man a lot flashier than most of the teachers in my school. Mr. Rishoi taught us music that I often found bizarre as a 17-year-old boy. But over the decades I have come to appreciate this incredible man more and more. The music he was teaching us was a study of the classics. One was a song based on a poem by Robert Frost, "Oh Star, the fairest one in sight. . . ." To this day, I can not look up at star-filled without thinking of that song and the incredible teacher who opened my eyes and mind to so much.

Doug Grow - August 13, 2025 at 08:25 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 13, 2025 at 11:33 AM

DP

“ Stan came to Yankton College like a whirlwind, and brought us possibilities - going to Europe on a choir tour, auditioning for the Metropolitan Opera, flying to music competitions. Some of the most remarkable memories of my life, and those of some of my classmates, were because of Stan. He touched generations of students, and he will be missed. My heartfelt sympathies to all his loved ones.

Deborah Patterson - August 13, 2025 at 10:56 AM

GT

“ Stan Rishoi certainly played a role in our Timmerman family. Leonard and Ardell were close Watertown colleagues, and Mr. Rishoi certainly played an educational and musical role in Bill's, Judy's and Gary's appreciation of our vocal abilities. From Junior High School band to Senior High School A Capella, All-State and Honors Choir. So many memories. Thank you, Stan.
The Timmerman Family

Gary Timmerman - August 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM

TJ

“ The Pappone Family—Michael, David & Jane purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Stanley Rishoi.



The Pappone Family—Michael, David & Jane - August 12, 2025 at 03:03 PM

TJ

“ *The Pappone Family—Michael, David & Jane planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stanley Rishoi.*

The Pappone Family—Michael, David & Jane - August 12, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ *I was in choir for four years at BV with Stan. He was simply put: the best! So amazing. He brought us to Carnegie Hall to sing Mozart's Requiem. Without a doubt, it was one of the best experiences of my life.*

Brian Singer - August 11, 2025 at 07:48 PM

BR

“ *I am writing a few memories of you, Stan. I remember you came to some of the family dinners on Christmas Eve at Jim Rishoi's house in Brookings, South Dakota. I remember going to a dance at the Ballroom at Lake Poinsett when your orchestra was playing and maybe one dance at the Arkota Ballroom in Sioux Falls. I also remember you coming to visit Jan, Greg and I several times in Omaha and you always got lost and you would call but you still took a couple hours before you arrived. I remember the time you took Jan and I for a ride in your Mooney airplane, checking out the Sioux Falls sky line. Thanks for all the great memories. Rest in peace Stan. Your cousin, Bob Rishoi*

Bob Rishoi - August 11, 2025 at 04:34 PM

CM

“ Heartfelt condolences to family and friends of Stan. He will always be 'Mr. Rishoi' to me. I will be forever grateful to him for pushing me to try out for all choirs, as I likely wouldn't have without his steady encouragement. I recall saying, "I can't sing." At the registration table of the Honors Allstate choir in Spearfish, he looked up at me and said..."Cindy, what are you doing here...you can't sing." And then flashed that smile at me. Capella, All-State, Honors Allstate and 20 years singing with the South Dakota Symphony Choir...would have never enjoyed all of that without his influence! He was my Mr. Holland's Opus Teacher! I know he touched many, many lives in the same way. Watertown was lucky to have him. Hands down, most influential teacher!! Thank you Mr. Rishoi! You will be missed.
Cindy Meadows

Cindy Meadows - August 11, 2025 at 04:13 PM

CT

“ Lisa, Merlin and I send our sympathies. It is evident from the tributes here that Stan was beloved and appreciated by so many. It is wonderful that you two found each other in this big, wide world and shared a great love for so many years. Hugs ~~ Cindy Tolsma

Cynthia A Tolsma - August 10, 2025 at 09:40 PM

DS

“ Prayers to Lisa and family 🙏❤️🙏❤️



Doug Sutton - August 10, 2025 at 09:18 PM

KC

“ *Kris Combes lit a candle in memory of Stanley Rishai*



Kris Combes - August 10, 2025 at 01:59 PM

LS

“ *So sorry for Stan's friends & family! Stan brought out the best in me encouraging me to take my singing to the next level. I will always be grateful to him for that. May you rest in peace, Stan!*

Lynn Sharp - August 10, 2025 at 11:33 AM

VM

“ *I have to smile when I think about Stan. He started his job at Yankton College when I was a sophomore there. He brought so much energy and passion to the choral director position and worked to build the program. I have great memories of traveling to Europe one summer and also flying to opera auditions in a small plane in the middle of a South Dakota winter! Nothing stopped him. My condolences go out to his family. Valerie Gramberg Middleton*

Valerie J Middleton - August 10, 2025 at 09:37 AM

JB

“ *49 years ago, I began my college career at Yankton College, Conservatory of music ... It was Stan's first year at the college and he was my voice teacher vocal coach. He was always so very patient with me and so inspiring as a choral director. I cherish the memories I have of YC. I feel so grateful that I got to see him briefly last summer at an event in Sioux Falls. Rest in peace and thank you. Prayers of comfort for his family.*

JoEllen Miller Berndt - August 09, 2025 at 10:48 PM

JP

“ *Jacque Peterson lit a candle in memory of Stanley Rishai*



Jacque Peterson - August 09, 2025 at 07:46 PM

JP

“ *Deep condolences to Stacey & Lisa during this transition. Mother so appreciated how much Stan 's musical talent contributed to the Community theatre musicals. Lisa, you had a special place in Mother's life. Stacey we share so much, so long - am feeling this absence with you, yet sharing your faith & God's great love to send Stan to be among us for these shared moments. Think back on all discussions Stan & had exercising in the pool at Sport's Rehab. Jacque Otto Peterson*

Jacque Peterson - August 09, 2025 at 07:45 PM

JS

“ *It saddens me to hear of Stan's passing. His work touched the lives of many including myself. My love of music I owe to him. RIP*

Jason Stoltzfus - August 09, 2025 at 03:24 PM

DJ

“ *deb jesse lit a candle in memory of Stanley Rishai*



deb jesse - August 09, 2025 at 02:26 PM

LA

“ We are so sorry to hear this, Lisa. Our thoughts and prayers for you at this time. Dale and Lori Arends

Lori Arends - August 09, 2025 at 10:39 AM

LJ

“ My condolences to Stan's family and friends. I worked with Stan at BVC in the 1980s, and we collaborated on two musicals. He was wonderful to work with and a valued colleague. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

Lynn-Steven Johanson - August 08, 2025 at 07:35 PM

LR

“ Love from Clint & Jessica Roberts purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Stanley Rishoi.



Love from Clint & Jessica Roberts - August 08, 2025 at 05:54 PM