



Doris Jean (Leivestad) Gist was born February 17, 1929, to Olof and Lucille (Foote) Leivestad in their home at Inwood, Iowa. Her birthday present when she was seven was the chance to take piano lessons, a gift of which she took full advantage throughout her life. At Inwood High School she accompanied all the musical groups under Mr. Dahl's direction and won numerous prizes at the music contests before graduating in 1947. Doris studied music education at Morningside College, graduating summa cum laude in 1951. Many years later while her children were in high school, she earned a Master's Degree in Education from Black Hills State College.

On graduation from Morningside Doris taught music in Soldier, Iowa where she was responsible for both vocal and instrumental classes for all grade levels kindergarten through high school. She also taught English in Soldier, reflecting what would be a lifelong love for and competence in the English language and its literature. Two weeks before beginning her work in Soldier she met Rodney Gist at a funeral service for his grandmother in Inwood, a service for which Doris was the pianist. After their first date that night they corresponded for two years while Rodney finished his theological education at Garrett Evangelical Seminary where they were married on the day he graduated, June 15, 1953. Their union would last nearly 70 years and to it two children were born: Barbara and Linda.

As Rodney itinerated among United Methodist churches in South Dakota for 37 years, Doris taught hundreds of students how to play the piano in the communities in which they served: Viborg, Sioux Falls, Britton, Canistota, Louth, Lincolnshire in the U.K., Spearfish, Gregory, and Canton. Throughout their working lives Doris applied her keen intelligence and penchant for planning to her many roles, each requiring different skills: teacher, musician, homemaker, pastor's spouse, and mother. In every role she strove to excel by persistent and meticulous attention to detail as evidenced, for example, by hand sewing matching dresses for a mother's day tea for her mother, herself, her daughters, her foster daughter, and her daughters' dolls. She was also a skilled caregiver, giving many hours of her life to meeting the inexorably increasing needs of her sister, Muriel, who suffered from Multiple Sclerosis and of her mother, for whom she cared in the first decade of her retirement years.

Even Doris' pleasures reflected her lively intellect and focus on detail: picking out punctuation errors in the many books she read, learning and executing elaborate knitting stitches, watching a lunar eclipse from beginning to end without moving, learning the names of butterfly species while volunteering at the Sertoma Butterfly House in Sioux Falls, and focusing on tiny variations in the flora and fauna on drives and walks she loved to take.

Since 2002 Doris and Rod have lived in Sioux Falls, being active in the programs of First United Methodist Church and enjoying the fellowship of other retired ministers and their spouses as well as their neighbors at Good Samaritan village. They also enjoyed flights and cruises to at least 25 countries.

Doris passed away peacefully on Tuesday February 14, 2023, at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls at the age of 93.

Doris is survived by her husband, Rodney; her daughters, Barbara (David) Cook of Fennimore, Wisconsin and Linda (James) Marten of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; grandchildren, Lauren (Matt) Parker of New York City, New York and Eli Marten of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; great-grandson, Wylie Parker of New York, New York; and a cousin, Donna Johnson of Iowa City, Iowa. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Muriel; and many friends.

Celebrating the Life of **Doris Jean Gist**

MEMORIAL SERVICE

11:00 AM, Monday, February 20, 2023
First United Methodist Church
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

OFFICIATING

Pastor Sara Nelson
Pastor Jordan Louks

ORGANIST

Marcia Klimes

EULOGY

Jennifer Larsen

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

Marcia Klimes

"Amazing Grace"

John Broadbooks

"The Lord's Prayer"

Fred Eitemiller

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

"Hymn of Promise"

RECESSIONAL

"Weimar Cantata"

Marcia Klimes

PALLBEARERS

James Marten ~ David Cook
Eli Marten ~ Lauren Marten-Parker

INURNMENT

Richland Cemetery

Inwood, Iowa

To be held at a later date

Doris' family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall immediately following the memorial service.

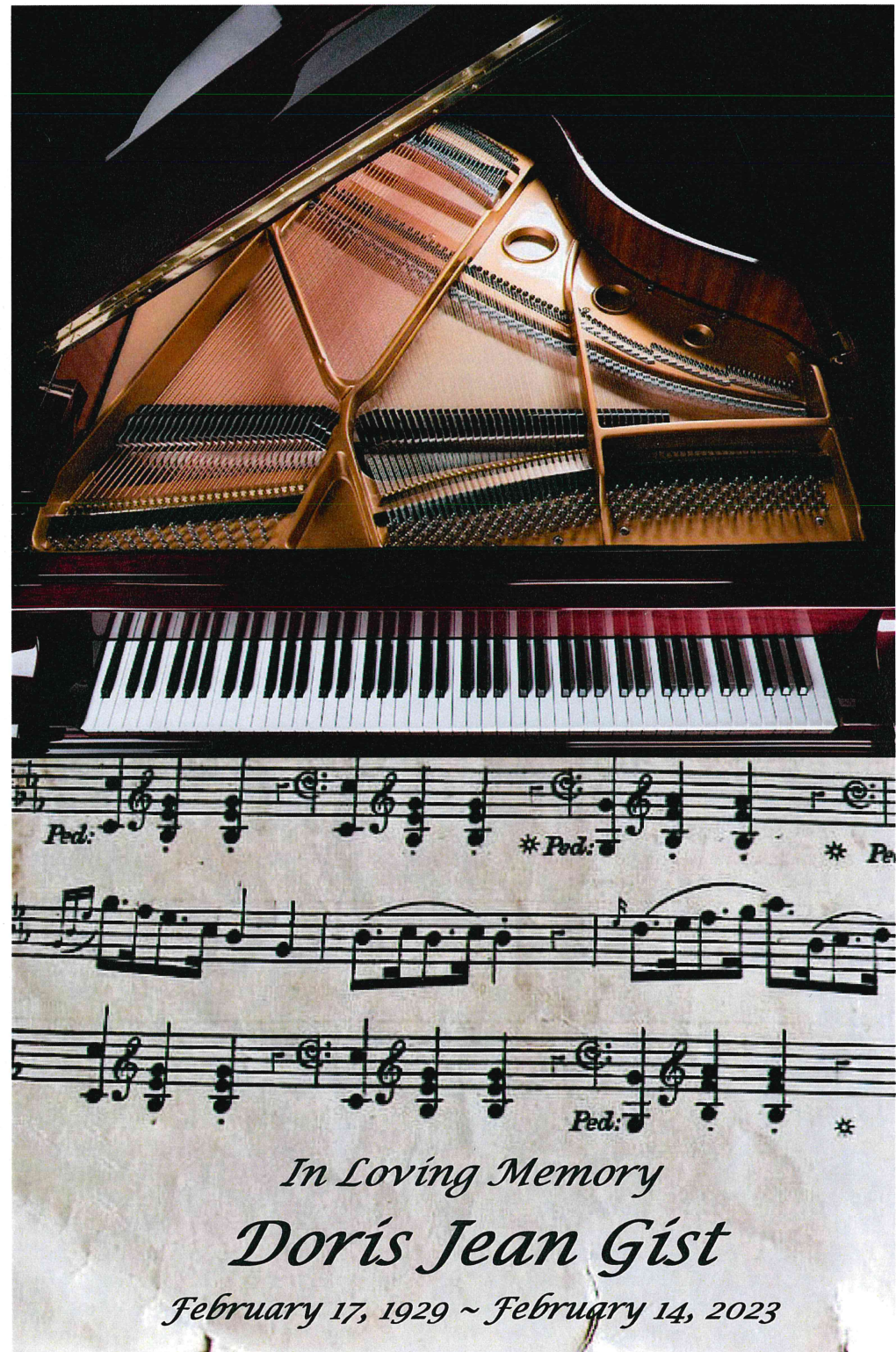
“Doris in a Chorus”

*Doris
Is the chorus
To a song I hear all day,
Lurking
While I'm working
And recurring while I play.
Repeating
While I'm eating
Through the joy of dinner hour,
Swelling
When I'm dwelling
On the fragrance of a flower.
Fading
At the shading
Of the sun behind a cloud,
Flurried
When I'm worried
Like a horn that plays too loud.
Snappy
When I'm happy
Like a trombone playing swing,
Floating
While I'm gloating
Like a sea gull on the wing.
Staying
While I'm praying
Like a glow of candle light.
Remaining
And refraining
Through the silence of the night*

9-30-1952

For Doris

From Rodney



In Loving Memory

Doris Jean Gist

February 17, 1929 ~ February 14, 2023