



## Alexander R. Ponomarenko

June 11, 1958 - January 28, 2022

### Alexander Ponomarenko Obituary

Alexander R. Ponomarenko, age 63, died peacefully in hospice care after a long battle with cancer on January 28, 2022.

He was born on June 11, 1958, to George and Valentina Ponomarenko in Cleveland, Ohio.

Alex played and composed on his worn Fender Precision Bass for much of his life, favoring blues, jazz and the tradition of busking. Whether outside downtown stadiums or at blues clubs throughout Cleveland and Atlanta, GA, where he lived happily for many years, Alex was a familiar face and a fixture of the local music community. Everyone who loved Alex knew he was a lifelong Tom Waits fan, a musician who remained important to him throughout his life.

Alex is survived by his daughters Daniella Ponomarenko and Suzzanne (Jon) Rubinstein; as well as by his ex-wife Cheryl (John) Kachmarik; sisters Maria (Gary) Hennessy; and Marilyn and Tamara Ponomarenko.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Peter Ponomarenko (Julia) and George Jr. Ponomarenko (Sharon).

Alex was also a beloved uncle, cousin, nephew and friend to many.

Visitation will be Thursday, February 3 at St. Theodosius Orthodox Christian Cathedral, 733 Starkweather Ave. Cleveland, OH 44113.

There will be a private viewing for family 8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m. and a public viewing from 9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

A service will follow directly after the viewing from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. with a procession to Riverside Cemetery (3607 Pearl Rd Cleveland, OH 44109) for burial.

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Alexander R. Ponomarenko, please visit our floral store.

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# Tribute Wall

WC

“ I remember Alex from his band years ago in Cleveland called the Gangsters of Blues; I did several shows with them and really enjoyed their devotion to the music. Alex was a great Robert Jr. Lockwood fan. I never knew exactly when I'd see him but it was always nice to look up and see Alex come in when I was playing, even if he stopped in on a break from his own gig to say hello. He loved the music.

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**Wallace Coleman** - March 26, 2022 at 11:52 AM

GH

“ Hey Brother, just to say glad you're not suffering no more. You kept your sense of humor all the way to the end, "Just like you". We had some good times together and crazy stories to follow. I always admired you for following your dreams at no cost, way it should be, not everyone can do that. You were a great musician and a great storyteller. Gonna miss that. Your Brother-in-Law Gary, "aka" Spyder-Beat Goes On.

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**Gary Hennessy** - February 02, 2022 at 07:15 PM

CS

“ God keep you safe and bring them into your arms, keep his family safe and heal their hearts and lessen their pain and know that you will always be my friend in my heart I'll miss you Alex. Sharon Lee caddick

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**Caddick Sharon** - February 02, 2022 at 04:47 PM

CS

“ Rest in peace Alex you'll be amongst all the great musicians where you belong because you were a great bass player!

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**Caddick Sharon** - February 02, 2022 at 04:46 PM

CS

“ One-time Alex was sitting in my house and I was doing a phone interview with George Thorogood when he had that hit I Drink Alone someone was banging on my door I had to ask George Thorogood to hold on I open it the door and it was one of the girls in the building yelling about I don't know why Alex stood up from his chair and said hey could you keep it down the girl said if you don't shut up and sit down I'll knock you down and he sat down and I just slammed the door in her face and I went back to my interview with George Thorogood on the phone and I knew he heard it all. It was just a funny funny thing me and Alex laughed about it years later you had to be there I guess to see it but it was priceless. Sharon Lee Caddick

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**Caddick Sharon** - February 02, 2022 at 04:45 PM

CS

“ I will miss my friend Alex whom I first met when we were both living in New York City he with his family and me just starting out on my career in music. Along the way he was in many bands, New York L A Georgia she was on cruise ships he went to Kiev the Ukraine and he always knew how to play his face always knew how to connect with musicians always knew how to play that music music was his life I'm sad to see you go my friend but you'll be meeting up with a lot of new guys up there in the big house where you guys will continue to jam God bless you and keep you safe and your family I'll miss you so much. Sharon Lee Caddick

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**Caddick Sharon** - February 02, 2022 at 04:44 PM

MH

“ Al just wanted to say thanks Bro for the memories and you we're such an amazing bass player. I remember your first band at Shiloh Jr. High, and you totally rocked even way back then. Thanks for teaching me to ride your banana bike and your way of expressing yourself at certain times with me being able to say, "Hey Al" and you always said "K". Cancer sucks and I'm glad I was there for you to help you and navigate through it all with you. I never seen anyone fight as hard as you but I'm glad you're not suffering or in pain anymore. New York will be fond memories for me, and I'll never forget Woodstock and those crazy grilled cheese sandwiches. I love you Bro and I'll miss you every day until we meet again. Enjoy driving that van on your next journey. Love you, your sister Maria

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**Maria Hennessy** - February 02, 2022 at 03:20 PM

DA

“ Dear Alex, Sorry to hear of your passing from this life. It was a pleasure to have met you in high school and jam on tunes together. You introduced me to Pat Metheny and Jacos music when the album Bright Size Life came out. It was a lifetime of inspiration for me. The many times you would come over my house with a broken guitar or an upright bass and ask me to try and fix them were educational memories that I remember with a smile. The move to New York city with your wife Cheryl was a time when we drove there in a full truck carrying Sang your dog in the front seat. Listened to Miles Daviss Star People on the way. We had to sleep on the floor till the apartment was done being painted with all the furniture piled up in middle of the room. Attending a Loved By Millions band practice in a hotel room on a floor of a high rise in New York City way above the street below was an unforgettable experience. It was just before you all went on a European tour. The album still sits in my collection. Someday we will all get together and have a great big jam session. Looking forward to seeing you then.

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**Douglas Arena** - February 02, 2022 at 12:45 PM

CH

“ *Peace to you on your journey to your next life.*

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**Cheryl** - February 01, 2022 at 07:16 PM

MP

“ *Alex and I knew each other from school and reunited shortly before he got sick. We had a special bond and I will miss my friend. He is at peace and my deepest sympathy to his family. R.I.P. Alex*

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**Marie Pizzillo** - February 01, 2022 at 11:49 AM