



## Calista McKasson Kovin

July 24, 1976 - August 2, 2019

Calista Shereen McKasson Kovin died in the early morning hours of August 2, 2019, in University Place, Washington, after a long and brave battle with cancer. She is preceded in death by her father, Roy William McKasson. Cali will be greatly missed by her husband, Christopher Kovin, and their three children: Cody, Cooper, and Victoria. She is also survived by her mother, Sandalyn Meridith McKasson; her sister, Dana McKasson Davis; and her brothers, Wade and Ryan McKasson.

Cali was born on July 24, 1976 in Dallas, Texas. From an early age, Cali was encouraged by her mother to study harp and classical piano. At thirteen, Cali won an all-Dallas piano competition and was awarded the opportunity to play with both the Plano and Baylor orchestras. She earned a master's degree in harp performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she also won the prestigious Concerto Competition. Since 2003, Cali had performed as principal harpist with Symphony Tacoma. She was a passionate advocate for music education and enjoyed visiting schools with other musicians to perform and share music with children.

Cali also loved playing music with her family and friends, from informal jam sessions to major events such as the Valley of the Moon (VOM) Scottish Fiddle Camp, established by one of her musical heroes and renowned fiddle player, Alasdair Fraser. At VOM, Cali learned Scottish music and history, formed lifelong friendships, and eventually taught piano as a faculty member. VOM also helped inspire Cali to form a fiddle group with her brother, Ryan McKasson; her sister-in-law, Brooke Jerrell McKasson; and her brother-in-law, Matthew Jerrell. The McKassons recorded two albums and toured the country. After a hiatus, the group recently reunited for a performance at Seattle's Folklife Festival, to Cali's great enjoyment.

Though music was a huge part of Cali's life, her proudest accomplishment was her family, to which she was fiercely devoted. She married her husband Chris in 2008, and they enjoyed 11 wonderful years of marriage and parenthood together. Steadfast and loving, Cali flourished as mother to Cody (10), Cooper (8), and Victoria (6). She cherished "cousin

days” and playdates when she and the other young mothers in her family – sister Dana Davis, sisters-in-law Brooke McKasson and Sarah Crea, and cousin Heidi Fulker, among others – could share the adventures and challenges of parenting.

The name Calista means “she that is most beautiful” – a definition that Cali McKasson Kovin exemplified to its fullest. A woman of abiding faith, Cali was an incredibly generous spirit, always quick to show kindness, empathy, and encouragement to others. She will be dearly missed by all who were fortunate enough to have met her.

A funeral service for Cali will be held at 1:00pm on Saturday, August 10, 2019 in the Valley Chapel at Mountain View Funeral Home & Memorial Park in Lakewood, Washington.

Share your memories of Cali and condolences to the family by visiting the tribute wall.

# Cemetery

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## Mountain View Memorial Park

4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW  
Lakewood, WA, 98499

# Events

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**AUG 10** **Chapel Service** 01:00PM

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Valley Chapel  
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA, US

**AUG 10** **Interment** 02:30PM

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Mountain View Memorial Park  
4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood, WA, US,  
98499

# Comments

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“ I’m so sorry to hear of Cali’s passing. She was always so kind and full of joy, even in the midst of trials. She was an example of Christ’s love and her sweet spirit will be missed.

**Mandie Lenzo** - September 10 at 05:33 PM

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“ I’m so sorry to learn of Cali’s passing. She was a wonderful sweet soul when I knew her as a young music student. May God bless her family with the knowledge that she has now fulfilled the purpose of her creation, to be united with her creator and savior.  
Dr. Mark Ruttle

**mark ruttle** - August 18 at 11:49 PM

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“ Cali’s beautiful soul has left us far too soon. A part of her will remain with me and remind me of the life she lived so well and her beautiful smile. Her hugs and the light that shone from her, along with her beautiful music are such a gift and her legacy to all. She will be missed terribly! I remember the jams we had at Cali and Ryan’s parents house when they were so young!  
~Trella Hastings



**Trella Hastings** - August 10 at 12:39 PM

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“ Springtime Wishes was purchased for the family of Calista McKasson Kovin.



August 10 at 02:35 AM

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“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Calista McKasson Kovin.



August 09 at 11:11 PM

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“ Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of Calista McKasson Kovin.



August 09 at 05:48 PM

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“ From Cheryl Gutierrez and Marie Gibson, SFSF purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White for the family of Calista McKasson Kovin.



From Cheryl Gutierrez and Marie Gibson, SFSF - August 08 at 08:42 PM

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“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Calista McKasson Kovin.



August 08 at 07:58 PM

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“ Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Calista McKasson Kovin.



August 08 at 02:00 PM

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“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Calista McKasson Kovin.



August 07 at 09:59 PM

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“ Please accept our sincere condolences to the entire family in the loss of Cali. She will be greatly missed by our entire family as well. We watched Cali grow up in the SFSF fiddle group and loved to hear her play the piano with the SFSF fiddlers as well as with Alasdair Fraser, Ryan, and at VOM. She was extremely talented and a very special individual.

Thinking of all of Cali's family -  
Robert, Nancy and Jason Outenreath  
SFSF Fiddlers and VOM

**Nancy Outenreath** - August 06 at 07:14 PM