

remembering KARLIN

Teacher and accompanist Steven Karlin passed away Oct. 21 at the age of 29. In the following days, students placed flowers on the seal and shared stories to remember him.

Music, glitter, pugs, sass. These were just a few things students and teachers associated with teacher Steven Karlin who passed away Oct. 21.

"There was no surprise when he would show up dressed in glitter," theater teacher Shana Prentiss said. "It was just like, 'oh that's Steven', you know of course he's dressed in glitter today, or of course he has a bow tie on. He was just very very comfortable with who he was and he was not afraid to let people know that."

Karlin's humor and kindness made him a good example for students.

"I think what made Steven wonderful for this community was that he was unapologetically himself," Prentiss said. "It was great for our students to see that you could be nice to people, you could be confident, but you could still be one hundred percent yourself."

When Karlin started working at STA in 2010, he was brought in to replace an accompanist in the middle preparation for the fall musical.

"I don't even remember what happened but it just stopped, and suddenly we didn't have an accompanist anymore," Prentiss said. "Steven was brought in, and I just remember thinking, 'Oh my God, this guy is so young, and he's funny and just so vibrant.'"

Since that first show, Karlin had been involved in every musical production at STA.

"Steven and I would spend months trying to figure out what musical to do the next year," Prentiss said. "We let (other people) think maybe they had some input, but it was totally Steven and I because we were both so musical theatre obsessed."

Coming back to STA following Karlin's passing was

especially difficult for the students rehearsing for STA's production of Jane Eyre.

"Since he always made everyone aware of his presence and a part of his daily life, there was a noticeably huge void," senior Rose Genaris said. "The lyrics regarding death, love and forgiveness took on a whole new meaning after his passing and it was an adjustment to say the least, to perform in the same manner. This was one of his favorite shows, so we all wanted to do him proud."

For Prentiss, being there for the students was more important than the show.

"He obviously was a huge piece of their lives, so we really made it a conversation when we came together on that Monday after he passed away," Prentiss said. "One of the things that I promised them from the start was that I wouldn't hide my grief. I would not pretend I was okay when I wasn't. I was like I'm going to grieve openly with you so then they knew that if I asked how they were, and they weren't okay, they wouldn't have to say they were okay."

The cast eventually decided that they would carry on with the show in honor of Karlin.

"Steven radiated and embodied music," Genaris said. "I feel like the best way to remember and honor him is through music."

According to Prentiss, Karlin's memory will live on through the fond memories that she and the students made with him.

"Obviously he will be very very missed but I think we all feel very fortunate for the time that we had," Prentiss said. "I have so many memories and text messages and facebook posts that I can go back through every now and then. He was just a good soul."



background photo FOREVER REMEMBERED Teacher Steven Karlin is remembered with flowers, candles, pictures, and other trinkets of remembrance Oct. 23. Karlin was a member of the STA community since 2010. photo by catelyn campbell
A. GUILTY Choir Teacher Steven Karlin, right, drags Twinks offstage after being convicted for the kidnapping of Kat Mediavilla in the 2015 auction skit. photo by delaney meyer
B. SPARKLES A glittery unicorn, along with pictures, flowers and candles are laid on the quad in memory of the passing of Stephen Karlin, the STA accompanist and piano teacher. Karlin was also the moderator for the GSA club. photo by olivia matlock
C. HUGS Senior Emma Gustavson, middle, consoles junior Sophie Bunch during the vigil for Stephen Karlin Oct. 24. Karlin was the STA choir's accompanist for concerts, masses, and musicals. photo by olivia matlock
D. IN MEMORY Students leave flowers and candles on the seal to remember Steven Karlin Oct. 24. After the school day, multiple girls stood around the memorial in silence and solitude. photo by allison porras