



Roberto Bartolucci

August 27, 1954 - March 6, 2025

Robert Bartolucci passed away Thursday March 6, 2025, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. Robert was a fabulous guitarist, composer, producer and avid music historian - a walking encyclopedia of all things music. Gifted, with the hands of a surgeon, he had the uncanny ability to fix anything electronic, often offering help to anyone in need.

Robert radiated joy and boundless enthusiasm when jamming with his childhood friends from Montreal, engineering and producing albums, guitar tech-ing for Ry Cooder, touring with Howard Jones, and especially when working as a first call session guitarist. He truly shone in the recording studio, where some of his many, many credits included co-writing and performing with Belinda Metz "What About Me", Alannah Myles debut album including the hit "Black Velvet", TV shows, Degrassi High, Due South, TV and radio spots for Jack Daniels and Budweiser to name a few. His contributions were both evocative and memorable.

Rich in spirit, Robert had a dry sense of humour, deadpan delivery and an endless library of the funniest true stories. He loved to make people laugh. A loyal friend to the end, Robert will be missed by everyone who knew him.

There will be a celebration on life with friends and family in Montreal at the end of March and in Peterborough or Toronto in May.

Special thanks to Jacquie Preston, Director of Care at Pleasant Meadow for consistently going above and beyond the call of duty. You were one of Rob's angels.

Gratitude to the amazing and caring staff at Pleasant Meadow Manor in Norwood, ON. Donations should be made to Pleasant Meadow Manor and they will go directly to the residents account in lieu of gifts and flowers.

Tribute Wall

DD

“ I would have met Rob about 40 ish years ago at Kensington Sound where I was an engineer. We worked together on easily 100+ sessions where his playing, ideas, taste and creativity were always bang on. His friendship too was always unquestionable. Sorry we lost him so soon. Dan Durbin

Dan Durbin - June 05, 2025 at 12:35 PM

AN

“ Rebecca thank you for sharing your memories of Rob. It's still really hard to believe. So much talent and personality. The email I have for you got sent back to me. If you share your current one with me I will keep you posted on the details of his celebration of life. If there are enough friends who'd like to attend from Toronto I will hold something there. \ud83d\ude4f\ud2764\ufe0f

Annie - March 25, 2025 at 07:52 PM

RE

“ Robert will always be my favourite guitarist - he instinctively knew exactly what to do and with such soul and passion; he approached being creative like a kid in a sandbox with joy, which was incredibly infectious. His talent, mastery of whatever he was focused on, humour and spirit will be greatly missed. xo Rebecca

Rebecca - March 24, 2025 at 03:44 PM

AN

“ Hello Jim, thank you for posting your memories of Rob. He loved working with you. He missed you in these last several years, especially the creative collaboration. I hope your family is well. We will probably be having his celebration of life in Toronto in May (towards the end of the month). If you are interested I will share those details with you when I have them. Take good care,Annie

Annie - March 20, 2025 at 03:20 PM

AN

“ Hey Johnny, thank you for posting your memories of Rob. Rob spoke often of your wedding and singing "When I'm 64". He absolutely loved working with you and Jim. I know he missed you both terribly in these last several years, especially the creative collaboration. I hope your family is well. We will probably be having a celebration of life in Toronto in May (towards the end of the month). Maybe by some miracle you could join us and more of your memories. Take good care,Annie

Annie - March 20, 2025 at 03:18 PM

JM

“ In 1996 Rob sang "When I'm 64" at Lisa and my wedding much love and humor I think of it often. He was a good friend a colleague who played guitar on many of the film and TV soundtracks I scored, Rob was always my 'secret weapon' being a genius musician who played the guitar like no other, every episode of Due South had his fine guitar featured...When I moved to Los Angeles in the '90's Rob moved into my house in Riverdale and took great care of it...as life goes once I sold the house we did not talk as often but always kept in touch...I'm truly saddened to hear of Rod's passing, so sorry he developed Parkinson. He leaves a hole in my, and many others heart. He will always be BARTOLUCC !!! to me.

John McCarthy - March 19, 2025 at 04:57 PM

JM

“ I’ve been thinking about Rob these past few days, and of course about how amazing a guitar player and musician and person he was and how my life and work and career was enriched by knowing him. And how I considered him a good friend as well, and how many huge laughs we had together. He was the heart and soul of a good half dozen TV series and feature films we were doing at the time as well as quite a few commercial jingles and album projects. He was in every way the consummate artist. A favourite anecdote was before a recording session, you could find him soldering in some new resistor into his amp, mentioning some esoterica about how it was going to improve his sound. I loved working with him.. You’d just let him be Rob and do his thing and it was always perfect. Tasteful, emotional, hip. It’s funny, I just had a memory of, man, it’s gotta be like almost 45 years ago, when I was poor and struggling and I got a gig as a roadie loading gear for Belinda’s band into a club, and Rob was horrified and embarrassed for me! What a beautiful, sweet man he was. I have these wonderful memories, and tons of recorded examples of his brilliant work. I’ve been listening to a bunch of things lately and they thrill me now just as much as they did when he first played them. Rest in peace, my friend.

Jim McGrath - March 19, 2025 at 12:43 AM

JH

“ It has been over 25 years since I last was graced by your physical presence and yet, I remember and can feel alive in me today the impact of your whole hearted laughter, wry humour, generous spirit, extraordinary story telling, kindness and mostly your enduring friendship for so many years. Thank you for being you and sharing some of your precious life with me. RIP

Jennifer Hilton - March 18, 2025 at 12:11 PM

AN

“ Thank you Thomas. You were so incredibly helpful to him and I know how grateful he was for all your support.

Annie - March 17, 2025 at 05:58 PM

AN

“ Thank you Doug from the bottom of my heart for sharing your memories of Rob, especially our wedding day (and the mosquito attack!). He loved you like a brother.

Annie - March 17, 2025 at 05:57 PM

DB

“ Rob and I became friends after we met at Kensington Sound in 1982. I successfully auditioned on keys to join him in the Belinda Metz band. He was honest, generous, quick to laugh, and he enjoyed my bad puns. We\u2019d go to Wolfie\u2019s Deli for smoked meat or pastrami sandwiches, or to Fats\u2019 for Toronto\u2019s best burgers, or just out for beers. We geeked out about music, sound systems, Star Trek, computers, cars, and other random tech stuff. He was a wonderful and creative guitarist; always a joy to play with. I learned way too much about guitars, thanks to him! Rob taught me some \u2018spicy\u2019 Italian vocabulary, too. He always enjoyed it when I spoke a phrase or two. We even worked out together at Super Fitness. I was proud to be best man at his wedding; what a delightful day that was, except for the @\$% mosquitoes! Rob is gone from our sight, but he will remain vividly in our memories.

Doug Buchanan - March 17, 2025 at 04:27 PM

TH

“ I only more recently got to know Rob. Very nice fellow who was easy to work with. His talent, knowledge and passion for music was self evident. He will certainly be missed.

Thomas - March 12, 2025 at 04:00 PM

RG

“ Humble, intelligent, humorous, witty, talented. Rob was all that and more. Robert's true gift and perhaps greatest weakness was that he never realized or admitted what a positive force he was. It didn't matter if he lived in a big house or a tent, whether he was rich or poor, whether he had lots of friends or a few friends. He didn't need fancy clothing, expensive cars, material possessions. Rob was a salt of the earth guy who valued his friends and family. Over the years, he had faced serious medical challenges with grace and courage. Rob made the best of his situation. He never complained or felt sorry for himself. We will miss Rob. Miss you, brother, Christine and Bob

Robert Gelfand - March 12, 2025 at 02:22 PM

MG

“ We are so saddened to hear of Rob's passing. He was such a gentle, kind and talented person with a great sense of humor, which he kept even in the most difficult of times. Our hearts go out to all those who knew and loved him and cherished the amazing person that he was. Marlene and Sandy

Marlene Gelfand - March 12, 2025 at 02:17 PM

AN

“ Thanks David. That means a lot. \u2764\ufe0f

Annie - March 11, 2025 at 09:14 PM

AN

“ Thank you Fran. \u2764\ufe0f

Annie - March 11, 2025 at 09:13 PM

DS

“ I had the pleasure of getting to know more than 20 years ago and most of what was said in the written tribute was bang on. He was a down to earth guy. In spite of his talent he never gave a vibe of being better than you. He did have a great sense of humour. I had the joy of jamming with him on more than one occasion and that will always stick in my mind. He was a talented musician but never overplayed and just played the right notes. I am overjoyed that I got to know him and I will have fond memories of Robert. May he rest in peace and may his family share good memories of him. My deepest sympathy, David Stein

David Stein - March 11, 2025 at 06:59 PM

FF

“ With love in memory.

Fran Fisher - March 11, 2025 at 05:35 PM