



## Leonard Maurice Stolar

January 19, 1936 - November 30, 2025

STOLAR, Leonard "Lee" M., age 89, beloved jazz musician and cherished friend, passed away on November 30, 2025.

Lee was a fixture on Cincinnati's jazz scene throughout his 76-year piano career, which began at age 13 when his father chaperoned him to play at the 19th Hole, a popular nightclub in Avondale. Known for his musical nuance, Lee had long-standing partnerships in the jazz world with Mary Ellen Tanner, John Von Ohlen, Bill Jackson, Amanda Ambrose, and many others, performing with house bands at noted clubs including Dee Felice, the Celestial, and Chez Nora. Lee also played at Carnegie Hall and was a 2016 inductee in the Cincinnati Jazz Hall of Fame.

Lee was the devoted son of Sara and Sam Stolar and the loving partner of Francene Rafalo. He is survived by a wide circle of friends and cousins who will always treasure his gentle kindness and passion for music.

Graveside services will be held at the Love Brothers Cemetery in Price Hill, 1619 Rosemont Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45205, on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 1:00PM. A music-filled celebration of Lee's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Cincinnati Jazz Hall of Fame, to recognize local jazz musicians and sponsor jazz classes, scholarships, and playing opportunities for students (192 Penfield

Ln., Cincinnati OH, 45238). Listen to Lee's music on YouTube <https://youtu.be/1TLWtbqy2mg?si=TvdgUQZGSwYejini> or borrow his music on CDs from the public library <https://cincinnati.library.bibliocommons.com/v2/search?query=lee%20stolar&searchType=smart>.

# Cemetery Details

## Love Bros. Cemetery

1619 Rosemont Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45205

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

DEC 3. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Love Bros. Cemetery  
1619 Rosemont Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45205

# Tribute Wall

CK

“ My father, Bill Walter’s Wibbeler was friends with Lee since I was born, and I’m 73 now. Lee’s parents used to have our family over for dinner many times and Lee’s parents were always wonderful to me. They were always very special and kind to me. Lee became a very good friend to me and after my father’s big band ended, I kept up through texting and phone. I am very sorry I missed his passing. You and my father can make beautiful music and please let my mother sing, every once in a while. She loved it too and everyone loved when little Marky got on the stage with him. Mark is 45 now and owns One Louder Studio. I think everyone would be very proud of him recording everyone. My father would have been very proud and so would Lee. Have fun and I will see you one day 🥹

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**Candace Krimmel** - February 12 at 09:53 AM

SH

“ Lenny made beautiful music. His family and my family were best friends. Lenny was a few years older than me. But he always welcomed me with a smile and a big hello. Lenny played all the top clubs and enjoyed a reputation as a “Top “ jazz piano player. Lenny rest in peace and join a jazz band in heaven.  
Stuart

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**Stuart Hodesh** - December 02, 2025 at 01:38 PM

EG

Lee was a draw wherever he played and always had a smile for old friends. May he rest in peace.  
Esther Grubbs

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**Esther Grubbs** - December 02, 2025 at 07:22 PM

JR

*An age old friend and a past lover of My cousin Francine. Now they join each other along with Dr.Ed Ball a close friend to both!*

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**jeff robinson** - December 04, 2025 at 05:08 AM

MG

*He was a kind man. When I was a kid growing up in Golf Manor, either he or his parents lived on Ardmore. I would go up and he would play the piano. He was a 2nd or 3rd cousin on my mothers side.*

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**michael gellman** - December 07, 2025 at 06:12 PM