



Ercole Eligio Di Berardo

September 6, 1954 - May 27, 2025

Ercole (Eric) Eligio Di Berardo, 70, of Sterling Hts MI, passed away peacefully on 5/27/2025 at Henry Ford Hospital, surrounded by his family . Born on September 6, 1954 in Detroit Michigan.

Eric was known for his loving heart, his walk with Christ, his beautiful marriage and family, and, of course, his incredible gift as a musician and sound engineer.

Eric's love of music began as a child, at his father's music store, "Eligios Music Center." A patient and dedicated teacher, he made a lasting impact on hundreds of students, their children, and their children's children.

He knew his gifts were from God, and he used them to serve at church in the worship team, giving all of his glory to Him.

Eric's passion for guitar led him all the way to California, where he played with and recorded some of the best musicians in the world. It's also where he met his soulmate, Donna, and they started their family.

Ercole is survived by his wife of 48 years, Donna Jean, his children Nadia, and Gian-Paolo (Jenni), his grandchildren Noah and Zoe, his sister Anna Maria (Bill) Butkovich, many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless

dear friends...and of course, Caruso and Stellina, his dogs. Ercole was preceded in death by his Father Eligio, Mother Letizia, and his brother Ennio.

A celebration of his life will be held at:

The Palazzo Grande
54660 Van Dyke Rd.
Shelby Twp MI 48316

Sunday June 29th 2025

1:30-2:30pm Arrival and fellowship

2:30pm Worship Service

3:30pm-5pm Dinner RSVP NEEDED BY 6/20/25 for dinner only
To Gian-Paolo at 480-414-7554

5pm-9pm Life Tribute (Open fellowship and live music, no RSVP required)
Palazzo Grande Hall

Ercole's smile and heart would light up an entire room and his love for others will be deeply missed but forever cherished by all who knew him. He walked the walk, made time for everyone, and even played you a song if you hung around long enough. Let's celebrate his life together.

We are putting together a memorial video to play at his celebration, so we encourage his loved ones to send a 30-60 second video, poem , lyrics , or words with a memory you have of Ercole to GianPaolo at 480-414-7554 , please include your information so we can add it properly.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **29**. 1:30 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Palazzo Grande
54660 Van Dyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Tribute Wall



“ I had heard of Ercole's passing on Facebook as many folks did, but unfortunately, I'm not on FB all that much, so I sadly missed the memorial. My heart goes out to his family, especially Donna, Gian-Paolo, and Nadia, as well as all his close friends. I was one of the lucky musicians who had the great fortune to perform with Ercole at many Italian events. We had a lot of fun, laughter and of course, great memories. Thank You for enriching my life, my friend...till we meet again.

Joe J Chila - July 29, 2025 at 10:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ercole Eligio Di Berardo.

June 27, 2025 at 12:16 PM



“ A Full Life was purchased for the family of Ercole Eligio Di Berardo.



June 27, 2025 at 12:16 PM

JS

“ I first met my long time friends, extended family before the kids. And I remember the days we had met up with musicians in Reseda. California. Eric and Donna. Always with a open house. Many meals, and their live of the Lord. Eric always welcomed a person to join in prayer. Donna not just a friend but my sister as Eric my brother. Santa Clarita, Rodney King, and Eric Bullocks song, the choir that back him. Eric nicknamed me Cracker Jack Promotions if he and Donna needed me to help in any way I tried my hardest. Eric knew how to inspire anything. Donna always at Eric's side praying and supporting his endeavors. The move to Michigan, was one I cried as I knew I'd never get to see the kids or Eric and Donna face to face, but As the tears went by we continued to pick up where we left off. My brother it won't belong until Our Lord and Save will call all of him. I promise to watch, pray and be there for your Bella, your kids and Grandchildren until my death here on earth. Love you and will miss you and how we had many talks even about our fur babies. Cracker Jack Promotions and Ministry. J. Small

joanna small - June 26, 2025 at 10:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ercole Eligio Di Berardo.

June 25, 2025 at 02:14 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ercole Eligio Di Berardo.



June 25, 2025 at 02:14 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ercole Eligio Di Berardo.*

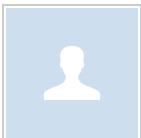


June 16, 2025 at 10:37 AM



“ *I originally meet Eric and his wife Donna because of my brother Ron. They all lived in California at the time. I was looking at recording some of my original songs and have Eric produce and play guitar on the album. He was such a professional, I had a great time doing the recording sessions and it was extra special having him play guitar on the album. One of the nicest people I have ever known! I believe Donna played some piano on the album. Then when Eric and family moved back to Michigan I was at his studio, on numerous occasions doing something or just coming by for a visit. He always had time for me.
Thank you Eric and Donna for some great memories! I was fortunate to have known him!
Joe Giordano*

Joe Giordano - June 12, 2025 at 09:36 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ercole Eligio Di Berardo.*

June 07, 2025 at 06:33 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of *Ercole Eligio Di Berardo*.



June 07, 2025 at 06:33 PM

GI

“ Dear Zio,

Your one-of-a-kind smile and that iconic mustache—half conductor’s baton, half conversation starter—will be missed more than words can say. You had a face that said, “Come here, I’ve got a story to tell you,” and a laugh that made everyone feel like the punchline was just for them.

You didn’t just teach music—you lived it. You turned scales and arpeggios into soul food, and every student who crossed your path walked away a little sharper, a little braver, and a lot more loved. You had a way of making everyone feel like they mattered—because to you, they did. That was your superpower.

I keep coming back to this quote: “Art decorates space, music decorates time.” And Zio, you didn’t just decorate time—you lit it up like a Christmas tree with a short fuse. Your life was a symphony, sometimes offbeat, often hilarious, and always full of heart. You composed a legacy out of love, faith, sass, and song.

Your teachings were deeper than chord progressions. You taught us how to show up, how to care deeply, and how to laugh at our own ridiculousness. You gave sermons with a side of sarcasm and hugs that could fix almost anything. (Even if your advice sometimes came with unsolicited commentary and a raised eyebrow.)

Thank you for the love, the laughs, and the life lessons. Thank you for the memories I’ll unwrap like gifts whenever I need you. And thank you for proving that sometimes, the loudest instrument in the room is actually a heart.

Rest in power, Zio. Heaven just got a little louder—and a whole lot cooler.

With love and eternal applause   

Giulia - June 07, 2025 at 05:43 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ercole Eligio Di Berardo.*

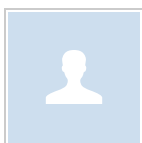


June 04, 2025 at 10:42 PM



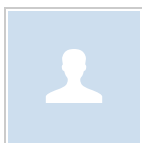
“ *My daughter, Jaelyn, was a bass guitar student of Eric's for over two years. During that time, she not only became a better bass player, but also learned life lessons, including the appreciation of music, but also about life lessons about how music was so important to everything. I will miss watching them teach. I will miss watching her learn. Most of all, I will miss watching him do what he did best. Inspire people to love music.*

Joel Kaczmarczyk Kaczmarczyk - June 02, 2025 at 08:48 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ercole Eligio Di Berardo.*

June 01, 2025 at 09:22 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ercole Eligio Di Berardo.*



June 01, 2025 at 09:22 PM

TF

“ *The Spix Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Ercole Eligio Di Berardo.*



The Spix Family - May 31, 2025 at 10:04 PM