



**Viola Margaret (Fuehr) Panman**  
**March 11, 1935-March 18, 2019**

***Born March 11, 1935 to parents who had just immigrated from Hamburg, Germany, Viola spent her early years in Arcadia, California. When she was only 7 years old, she lost her dear mother. Her father remarried a year later, and moved to a house with a large one-acre property. Some of Viola's fondest memories were her father's gigantic vegetable garden, and the beautiful camellia bushes that bloomed each spring. This experience instilled in her a lifelong love for plants and gardening.***

***Viola was an incredibly gifted musician, starting to play the violin at the age of 3, before Suzuki teachers even existed. She has very fond memories of participating in the Pasadena Symphony and the Carmel Music Festival every summer. She played in numerous chamber ensembles, and was a violist in a string quartet that won first prize several times in the Coleman Chamber Music Auditions. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in music from Occidental College, Viola got a position as violist in the Indianapolis Symphony (at the young age of 21) and after auditioning was placed 3rd chair. However, just two years later, she married the love of her life, David, and left the symphony to raise a family. Viola never left music, however. She taught her two young children to play the piano and the violin and she participated in numerous local symphony orchestras. When her children graduated from high school, Viola launched a successful after-school Suzuki music program, that encompassed at least 5 different schools in the Carlsbad school district. She built the program to more than 150 students, preparing them for competitions, performances, and local outreaches. One of her most successful groups was "The Strolling Strings", which performed at local events, strolling around the room as they played. It was quite a sight to see! During this time, Viola was also instrumental in starting the Civic Youth Orchestra. She managed the organization for many years, building it into a successful three orchestra program for young musicians of North San Diego County. In 1999, Viola was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer, but fortunately after treatment her cancer went into remission and she continued teaching in the Carlsbad string program. She even insisted on teaching while receiving treatments of chemotherapy and radiation. Later, after more than 20 years of leading the string program in Carlsbad, Viola retired to spend more time with her husband David. But she just couldn't stay away from teaching music. Instead she started a string program at her grandchildren's school, Oceanside Adventist Elementary. She also started a choir program and a bell choir program at that school. In 2016, Viola was diagnosed with Acute Luekymia (AML) but she responded well to treatment, and the cancer went into remission for two years. She was so happy and grateful for the time she had that allowed her to see her grandchildren grow up and even graduate from college. Just last November Viola flew to Michigan with the family to attend her grandson Jonathan's college piano recital. Viola's caring spirit and zest for life will be truly missed by so many of us all.***

***A Celebration of Life service will be held on June 22, 2019 at 3 pm at the Oceanside Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1943 California St, Oceanside, CA 92054. In Lieu of flowers, please send donations in Viola's name to the American Cancer Society or a charity of your choice.***