

Parcells, Elizabeth

Singer Elizabeth Parcells, 54, coloratura soprano, of Grosse Pointe Farms, died of cancer on Thursday, December 29, 2005, at her home one day after her 54th birthday. At age 16, she began her formal music education attending the Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen. She earned a bachelor's degree (1974) and master's degree (1976) of music with honors at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston where she studied voice with Mark Pearson. In 1977, she was a winner of the Metropolitan Opera Council National Final Auditions in New York City. She moved to Europe in 1979, where she sang with solo ensembles at opera houses in Frankfurt, Augsburg, and Weisbaden and spent four seasons with the Basel Opera. She was also an active recitalist who performed in Boston, San Francisco, Rome and Paris. Starting in 1987, she gave recitals with guitarist, Felix Justen. In April 1996, she was invited to participate with Luciano Pavarotti and Joan Sutherland in the gala concert that opened the new Detroit Opera House. Her farewell recital was given at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York in February 2005 under Pro Musicis' sponsorship. Elizabeth performed in opera productions in Europe and America for 30 years. Her major roles included Donizetti's Maria Stuarda, Lucia di Lammermoor and Linda di Chamounix. She appeared regularly as Queen of the Night in Mozart's The Magic Flute and as Olympia in Offenbach's Tales of Hoffman. Her concert repertoire included Bach's Cantata 51, the Brahms Requiem, and Mozart's C Minor Mass, Motet and concert arias. Recital work included 10 years of regular performances with Felix Justen in their voice and guitar duo. This is only a small portion of Elizabeth's accomplishments. For a more complete list including audio, please visit her official website at www.ElizabethParcells.com. Ms. Parcells is survived by her father, Charles A. Parcells Jr.; her dear friend and companion, Ric Hill; siblings, Charles, III, Ann (Robert) Benoit, Frederick (Ellin), Kathryn (Alan Wasserman), David; and niece, Claire Frances Parcells. She was predeceased by her mother, Frances Hamilton Parcells. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2006, at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, 8625 East Jefferson Avenue, Detroit. (313-822-3456) Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2006, at Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe (313-881-8500). Memorial donations can be made to the Huron City Museums, cancer research, The New England Conservatory of Music, The Interlochen Arts Academy, and/or the Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church.