

A legacy gift & song from the heart

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Gerald and Dorothy on their vacation to Paris in 2018.

Gerald and Dorothy were childhood friends and partners in life.

They settled in Otter Lake Ontario where Gerald built the house they called home.

In addition to their common interests, they both had a family history of heart disease, and Dorothy's dad received care at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.

In 2018, Gerald became the next family member to receive treatment.

Grateful for the care that their family had received, they decided to include a gift to the Heart Institute in their estate plans.

In 2020, one day before Valentine's Day, Dorothy lost Gerald.

Determined to honour his legacy and their promise to give back together, Dorothy reached out to her advisor and began including a gift to the Heart Institute in her Will.

It gave her peace of mind knowing that this powerful way of giving would help future cardiac patients, funding essential ground-breaking research in brain and heart health.

A legacy gift & song from the heart

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By the summer of 2021, well into the pandemic, Dorothy had spent much time reflecting. She recalls waking up one morning, seeing the sun shining and hearing a loon call in the distance.

It was in that moment she was inspired to translate her reflections into music. She had enjoyed singing all her life but was never a performer.

The phrase “When will I see you again?” became the title of her album, recorded at Summit Sound in Westport, Ontario, that year.

The CD is a loving tribute to Gerald, and another way for her to give back to the Heart Institute, directing the net proceeds to support brain and heart research.

Dorothy’s creativity does not stop there. In addition to the album, she is also writing a book about her life and directing those proceeds to the Heart Institute.

Dorothy’s legacy will one day further the research into the intricate links between our heart, mental health, and cognitive well-being.

This relationship has only just started to be explored, researched, and understood more deeply by healthcare professionals in recent years.

The research today will lead to significant future breakthroughs and treatments.

Driven by her love for Gerald and the wish to “save one life tomorrow.”

Dorothy has composed a legacy of heart health for future patients and their loved ones.

Start the conversation. Today you can decide to help thousands of future cardiac patients by leaving a lasting gift in your Will. Talk to your loved ones. A conversation around your shared legacy can be a bonding experience and create special memories.

For a confidential conversation, please contact: **Selva (613) 696-7251** or via email strebert@ottawaheart.ca