

# **Jim X. Borzym obituary**

1955 - December 14, 2022

Jim (James) Xerxes Borzym passed away peacefully at his home in Boulder, Colorado on December 14, 2022, at the age of 67 years. He is preceded in death by his mother, Pearl Ann (née Bobrick) in 2011 and father, Eugene Borzym earlier in 2022. He is survived by his sister, Trish (Patricia) Borzym.

His grandparents immigrated to the Queens and New York City area from Poland, in part from the rustic Polish village of Borzomy. The social events and get-togethers in New York hosted by one of his grandfathers inspired Jim later to bring people together for dances and other events. Jim spent many hours at the family grocery store, working with his father, uncles, and cousins, where he gained a sincere appreciation for food, cooking, deep generosity in sharing food and meals, and using resources responsibly.

He had an excellent ear for music, playing the piano at home, and clarinet and saxophone in school bands throughout his school years.

Jim earned a multi-disciplinary degree in Engineering, including Applied Engineering, Forestry, Computer Science, Music, and other aspects from Yale in 1978. While at Yale, Jim played saxophone in the Yale University Band. The Band toured Northern Europe in 1976, on a State Department sponsored trip to mark the Bicentennial, performing concerts in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, at the Maifestspiele in Wiesbaden, in the Tivoli Gardens Concert Hall in Copenhagen, and other venues in Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Finland. Earlier, in 1975, Jim performed with Yale Band on an East Coast tour that included concerts at the Kennedy Center and Disney World. Jim also was a founding member of the Yale Saxophone Quartet.

In 1978, he made a rambling cross-country trip, settling in Missoula, Montana. He added a 3,000- mile solo cycling trip to his adventures, riding through Rocky Mountain parks, across British Columbia, and down the West Coast.

Jim moved to Santa Barbara, California in 1982, obtaining his first professional engineering license there. He added the design of commercial air-conditioning systems to his services. In 1986 he relocated to Chicago, Illinois, to augment his career by building systems noise and vibration control for

concert halls, theaters, large churches, and university music buildings. In 1988 he settled in Boulder, Colorado. Projects of particular note include renovation of the Grady Gammage Hall at ASU which had been designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the renovation of the Philadelphia Academy of the Arts which was the oldest continuously operated concert hall in America, and new multi-hall performance arts centers in Fort Lauderdale, Cincinnati, Charlotte, and Greenville. In Colorado he obtained his second professional engineering license plus a specialty license in noise control.

In 1999 Jim established Borzým Acoustics LLC, providing engineering services for well over 600 building projects. Several of his significant projects have been published in acoustical engineering publications. He applied his specialty acoustic treatment to the historic Boulder Colorado Chautauqua auditorium, the Boulder Dairy Center for the Performing Arts, The Lafayette Center for the Musical Arts, Denver Union Station, many restaurants, commercial and home theaters, music rooms, yoga studios, hair salons, and private residences.

Simultaneously developing his passion for music and dance, Jim began learning social dances and then teaching them, starting in 1979 in Missoula. He was instrumental in founding the Santa Barbara Country Dance Society. Jim expanded his dance teaching and hosting in Colorado, where he established his second firm in 1989, American Vernacular Dance. He branched out by teaching social dance along the Colorado Front Range and beyond, including vintage dances of the Ragtime era, waltz, foxtrot, and swing, plus introducing vintage Argentine-style tango to the Colorado dance community. He served as President of CFOOTMAD, a Colorado contra dance non-profit, for many years. In 1993 Jim began collaborating with four partners to create a social dance venue in Boulder, resulting in "The Avalon", a 33,000 square foot building with five dance studios, three of which have custom cushioned oak wood floors which he designed. The stage in the Main Ballroom is large enough to present thirty musicians. In addition, he served as vice-president of the Boulder Dance Coalition. Jim hosted fifteen vintage-attire balls in historic Denver ballrooms 1989-2003. He hosted more than fifty dance events per year for over thirty years, including the largest New Year's Eve dance parties in Colorado, with 700-plus attendees. He organized many visiting dance instructors' events and workshops.

Jim thoroughly enjoyed travel, skiing, dancing, ocean surf swimming, singing, music, art, reading and research, pocket billiards, cooking, and gardening. He traveled to many parts of the world, taking in as much as he possibly could,

observing details, people, and worldly dynamics on this planet with passion and curiosity.

Donations may be made in Jim Borzym's name to The Nature Conservancy and The Boulder Dance Coalition.

Memorial website at: <https://everloved.com/life-of/jim-borzym/>