

Music a part of life for this father-daughter pair



Maurice Treacy and his daughter, Cindy Folk.

When Maurice Treacy was a child, the sounds of piano playing could be heard at home—but only when his father wasn't there. His mother played the piano for personal enjoyment and was the accompanist for silent films shown at the local theater in Oakland, Maryland.

"My father liked my mother, of course, but not the piano playing," Treacy says with a chuckle. "He didn't like music. But music is part of our family."

Music is, indeed, very much a part of his family history as well as his own life—and the lives of his four daughters, who inherited musical interests and talents. Today, Treacy, 97, is a resident of the assisted living community on the Ravenwood Campus of Diakon Senior Living – Hagerstown.

His mother, along with her two sisters and three brothers, performed together as the Rasche Family Band. His own musical journey began at age 8 as a piccolo player with the Gilbert-Brown Boys Band, which performed and marched in parades around Oakland.

In fact, his skill as a piccolo player led him to perform in marching bands in high school and at Loyola College and Georgetown University.

Piccolo players often also learn to play the flute. Treacy took that path as well, teaching himself and then taking lessons from master flautist James Galway at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. Throughout his adult life, wherever he lived, he continued to play in community bands.

"He was still playing into his 90s," says his daughter, Cindy Folk, whose own musical journey was inspired

in part by her father. She always sang in church choirs and school choruses and currently is a member of a ladies barbershop quarter called "Hearts in Harmony."

She also plays the violin and is teaching herself the ukulele—and she still may learn the flute, she says. "My sister, Jane, played the flute. I want to borrow hers and have Dad give me some lessons."

Treacy recently surprised his fellow Ravenwood residents with his flute-playing; they had no idea of his talent, staff members say. Cindy also entertained residents when Hearts in Harmony performed.

"When you see people respond to the songs, that's really something," she says. "We'll definitely come back and do it again."

What about a father-daughter duet? She once played the violin with her father on flute, she says, but that was just for fun.

"Maybe" she says, smiling. "Music does help keep us going."