



## Donald Clarence Hahn

February 22, 1939 - October 10, 2020

Donald C. Hahn

Born: February 22, 1939. Deceased: October 10, 2020

The world lost one of the greatest recording engineers of all time this week. With Don's demise, it is truly the end of an era and the passing of a legend.

If you grew up listening to music from the '60s onward - you would have heard Don Hahn's work on radio, television, commercials, and cinemas. He was the behind-the-scenes genius who made everyone sound as professional as possible.

Born in Toronto, Canada, Don grew up in Montreal. He studied music and attended The Radio College of Canada. While still in his teens, Don designed a soundboard to produce street dances for the neighborhood kids. The youngest child of Harvey & Mary Hahn, Don followed in the footsteps of his musical family. His older siblings, Lloyd, Bob, Kay, and Joyce Hahn, achieved star status as The Harmony Kids. The Harmony Kids were one of Canada's first performing and recording artists at the dawn of radio and live television broadcasts.

Don's career path led him to A & R Recording Studios in New York City. Art Ward and Phil Ramone, the owners of A&R Studios, encouraged him to become one of the best engineers of our time. One of Don's first recordings

was engineering The Band's debut album, "Music from Big Pink". The album, which has stood the test of time, is a testament to what can be done live, in-studio.

In 1981, Don left New York City for Los Angeles to work with Herb Alpert at A&M Studios. He became Vice-President of the studio and continued to develop a track record for excellence, recording, and producing. The list of artists he worked with is extensive: with top producers, Phil Ramone and Quincy Jones, to artists such as Frank Sinatra, Count Basie, Peggy Lee, Harry Belafonte, Peter Paul & Mary, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Barbra Streisand, Ray Charles, Paul Simon, Judy Collins, Billy Joel, Paul Anka, Chick Corea, Stephane Grappelli, Al Jarreau, Loretta Lynn, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Whitney Houston and Cissy Houston, Larry Coryell, Liza Minnelli, Dionne Warwick, Donovan, Judy Collins, B.B. King, Chuck Mangione, and Dave Grusin - to name a few.

Don is survived by his wife and childhood sweetheart, TV host and published author of children's books, Dianne Sebis Hahn; their three children: Dina (Joshua Fenton), Darryl (Amy Embry) and Derek Hahn (Ryan Calahan), grandchildren Dagny and Jack Fenton, Sebastian, Sawyer, and Blake Hahn, and sister Joyce Hahn, sister-in-law Neva Hahn, nieces Lliane Price, Kathy Hahn, Donna, Eileen & Helen Hahn; nephew Graham Okos Hahn, David and Michael Hahn, grandnephew Christopher Hahn and grandnieces Jenny and Rebecca Hahn.

Due to Covid-19 a memorial service will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

AB

“ Donald Clarence Hahn

Angel Balestier - October 09, 2024 at 09:40 AM

AB

“ Don, Was a dear friend we met in the 60s in New York City and we continue our friendship here in California the man was truly genuine and always shared his talent with you. I miss you Don you were a great friend and mentor I learned a lot from you. God Bless Rest in Heavenly Peace My Friend

Angel Balestier - October 09, 2023 at 07:36 AM

AB

“ Don I will never forget the good times we had, your where a great mentor to me. I will never forget our first recording at the Astor hotel you as always were the best rest in Heavenly Peace my friend you are not and won't ever be forgotten God Bless you as well your family. Angel

Angel Balestier - October 09, 2021 at 12:16 PM

PP

“ He was a wonderful friend. He will be greatly missed. My sincere condolences to Dianne. Pat Porter

Patricia Porter - October 28, 2020 at 07:45 PM

ES

“ Cousins, Eleanor and Tim send our deepest sympathy to you Dianne and the family. So sorry to hear of Donnies passing. We will cherish the memories of the good times we spent together. He will forever be in our hearts. Stay strong. We Love you always Dianne.

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**Eleanor and Tim Stasiw** - October 24, 2020 at 11:35 AM

JB

“ Ric Davis and Jamie will always remember Don for our time sitting on the beach in Mexico, shopping along the waters edge and eating scrumptious shrimp back at the RV camp. Our deepest sympathy to my dear Majong friend and family during these difficult times.

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**Jamie Davis Brown** - October 23, 2020 at 07:04 PM

AO

“ So sad to read about Don's passing. We really enjoyed your company on RV rallies.

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**Aileen & George Ormsby** - October 22, 2020 at 04:21 PM

DC

“ You have Mary and my condolences. Don was someone I looked for every day when I switched on my computer. His wit and humor will be missed. You are a strong woman Diane, but know we will keep you in our prayers.

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**David and Mary Curran** - October 22, 2020 at 02:56 PM

JH

“ I had no idea of Don's extensive and successful career. What wonderful memories you must have, Dianne, and they'll keep you in loving company. Much love to you, Dianne.

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**Jeane Harvey** - October 22, 2020 at 02:52 PM

JS

“ Our deepest sympathy to you and the family Diane.

John and Ema Strasner - October 22, 2020 at 02:48 PM

LN

“ I loved him with all my heart , Donny was a Gem .Our love a d prayers for Diane , may he R.I.P.

Linda November - October 21, 2020 at 04:03 PM

BT

“ Dianne so sorry to hear about Don. You had such a rich life together.

Barb Thompson - October 20, 2020 at 09:43 PM

BP

“ Diane, what a special friend and neighbor he was. We loved hearing his stories of his career path and was so proud of his children. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Buddy and Janet Pyle - October 20, 2020 at 06:20 PM

DC

“ We hold so many special memories of Don aka Mr. Hahn..he and Jim had a special relationship and succeeded professionally as well as socially. We all truly loved him especially how much he loved Mrs. Hahn and all his kids, and grandkids.. we will sorely miss him. Much love, Mrs. c/d and Phil

Debi Cassell/dudley - October 20, 2020 at 06:17 PM

FW

“ Don was the first person I met when Phil Ramone hired me to work at A&R on 112 west 48th street, and later at 799, 7th avenue, and at 322 west 48th. Don impressed me with his knowledge, offer to help me through the ins and out of the studio, and was the ultimate caring professional. I shall always remember him. I am truly sorry that he is no longer with us, although I will always treasure the the memories he was so instrumental in creating, both professionally, and as a truly special human being.

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**Fred Weinberg** - October 16, 2020 at 03:19 PM

RM

“ He was truly a great engineer!

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**Ralph Moss** - October 16, 2020 at 12:44 PM

SH

“ My first and most important mentor in the recording studio and lifelong friend. Donnie always told it like it was and never pulled punches. Was able to see and work with him even after he moved to LA and even better, had a fabulous dinner at Lawry's in Las Vegas with him, Diane, Linda November (the Empress) and genius husband Artie Schroeck (the Maestro) just a few years ago...

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**Susan Hamilton** - October 16, 2020 at 07:57 AM

AB

“ The days and times we spend together still remain as if we're yesterday, we really had great times at A&R. Don thank you for all your guidance R I P my friend.

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**Angel Balestier** - October 15, 2020 at 08:36 PM

JD

“ *He was a one-of-a-kind talent. Demanding but understanding. I considered him a friend and a genius with sound. Very few men who ever engineered a record were as talented as Donnie. I will miss him always and treasure our time together.* ”

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**Joe D'Ambrosio** - October 15, 2020 at 06:47 PM