

FFWPU UK: Invitation to Barbara [Burrows] van Praag Sigaar's Seonghwa

Michael Balcomb

April 25, 2025



Invitation to our sister Barbara Van Praag Sigaar's Seonghwa ceremony

Our beloved sister Barbara's Seonghwa ceremony will take place on Tuesday 29th April at the Peace Embassy, River South Community, London at 11am. You can find more detailed information on the invitation poster. Let's keep Barbara and her family in our prayers at this time and let's offer our dear sister a proper send off celebrating her amazing life of faith, music and love.

Help Us Honour a Life of Faith, Music, and Love

Dear friends, family, and kind-hearted supporters,

I'm reaching out to you with a heavy heart to ask for your help in giving a beloved woman - Barbara Van Praag Sigaar - the farewell she so deeply deserves. She lived a long, vibrant, and fulfilling life, passing away peacefully at 95 after a battle with dementia. While her life was a gift to so many, her final weeks and days were a painful struggle, not only for her but for her devoted daughter and son-in-law, who fought tirelessly by her side.

This remarkable woman was a cornerstone of her church community, a devout believer whose faith touched lives across countries. To countless members of her congregation, she was more than a friend - she was a spiritual mother, a source of inspiration, and a guiding light. Her love for God shone through in everything she did, and her legacy of kindness and devotion will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

She was also blessed with a breathtaking operatic voice, a gift she shared generously. Whether she was singing at church functions - her voice rising above all others in beautiful harmony - or coaching her

students with unwavering patience and love, she brought beauty and joy to the world. As a cherished voice coach, she poured her heart into nurturing talent, often organising performances to showcase her students' abilities. Her passion for music was matched only by her passion for uplifting those around her.

Her daughter and son-in-law, Silra and Ben, fought relentlessly against the challenges of the UK healthcare system, navigating a maze of obstacles to obtain the highest level of care possible in her final years. The emotional and physical toll of caring for someone with dementia is unimaginable, yet they never wavered in their commitment to their mother's dignity and comfort. Now, as we prepare to say goodbye, the costs of a fitting funeral and memorial weigh heavily on their already burdened shoulders.

In this time of mourning, we're turning to you - her extended family, her church community, and beloved students - to help us honour this extraordinary woman's life. Your donation, no matter the size, will help cover funeral expenses and give her the send-off she deserves. As one of Silra and Ben's closest friends I'm organising this fundraiser on their behalf, aiming to raise an initial target of £9,000 (British pounds) to ensure a service filled with love, music, and gratitude - reflecting the joy she brought to so many. Should we exceed this goal, any additional funds will go toward a headstone for her father's grave, reuniting them in memory with the dignity they both deserve, as well as to Dementia UK and Joshua House Orphanage in Guyana, established by Auntie Barbara.

Thank you for taking the time to read her story. Thank you for keeping her memory alive with your generosity. Together, we can celebrate a life that blessed so many - a life of faith, song, and unshakable love.

With gratitude,

Rebecca Coombs

If you would like to donate to the fundraiser please [click here](#).

JOIN US FOR A MUSICAL
CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF



Pansy Barbara Winefride
van Praag Sigaar
née Burrowes

31st December 1929 - 7th April 2025

Dress code: Colourful!

Tuesday 29th April 2025

11.00 AM
FOR 11.30AM START

Haslemere Hall,
2a Haslemere Road,
Thornton Heath, CR7 7BE

2.00 PM

London Road Cemetery
London Rd, Mitcham CR4 3LA

3.00 PM

The Selkirk, 60 Selkirk Road,
Tooting, SW17 0ES

Help Us Honour a Life of Faith, Music, and Love



Rebecca C is organising this fundraising appeal on behalf of Silra van Praaag Sigaar.

Donation protected

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With gratitude,

3 days until service
28 April 2025



£8,234 raised
£9K target · 152 donations



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- Mrs Beatrice Rodrigues
£40 · 2 d
- Kayoko Johnson
£40 · 3 d
- Dirk Gardiner
£40 · 3 d
- Allyson Hagood
£50 · 3 d
- Amanda Hall
£100 · 3 d

See all

See top



Show your support for this GoFundMe



Updates (2)

17 April 2025 by Rebecca C, Organiser

Thank you for all your donations. We really appreciate every penny, as it will all go towards giving Auntie Barbara her final concert, as well as the details of the burial. We still have a little way to go to our goal which would ensure the headstone.

For those wishing to join the day to say farewell, all the details are on the invitation attached. Details of the live link will be supplied on the day.

Again, thank you so much.



[See older updates](#)

Donate

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Organiser and beneficiary



Rebecca C
Organiser
England

→



Silra van Praaag Sigaar
Beneficiary

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Words of support

Please donate to share words of support.







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More ways to make a difference. Find fundraisers inspired by what you care about.

Nearby ▾



4 miles away

Help Joseph Heal and Walk Again

by Jessi for Emergencies

\$1,970 raised



4 miles away

Support Joe's Recovery After Devastating Motorcycle...

by Alex for Medical

\$40,327 raised

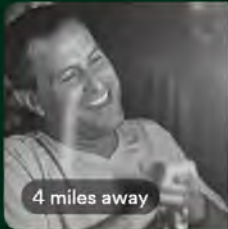


4 miles away

Help Us Give Kevin a Proper Burial

by Rochelle for Funerals &...

\$1,265 raised



4 miles away

Honoring and Celebrating MacLachlan

by Nisha for Funerals &...

\$89,171 raised

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