

*The sunniest
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the passing of
June LeBell.*

Pictured here:
JoAnn Urofsky,
WUSF General Manager,
June's husband, Ed Alley,
June LeBell and Rosy

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June LeBell 1944-2017



June and Ed hosting a WSMR reception at their home with WSMR's Russell Gant and Bethany Cagle

The sunniest place on earth just lost a special ray of light this past Sunday with the passing of June LeBell, who died of ovarian cancer at her home in Sarasota. June and her husband, Ed

Alley, were founding members of Classical WSMR when it first signed on the air in 2010, and their love and generosity for the music has been vital to our success for more than 6 years.

June invited listeners into her “radio living room” each week on WSMR from October 2014 to October 2016 on *June LeBell’s Musical Conversations*. June’s warm and friendly personality, combined with her deep and passionate knowledge of classical music brought our listeners unscripted, insightful, fun conversations about music and life with music. The guest list was a name-droppers dream – many personal friends of June’s! Marilyn Horne, Leonard Slatkin, Dick Hyman, Anu Tali, Jamie Bernstein, Victor de Renzi, just to name a few.

June was a professional concert soprano who honed her radio skills for nearly 30 years in New York City on WQXR – a commercial (now public) classical music radio station. She was the first, full-time female hired as a staff announcer on WQXR, and was the first woman on the staff of any major commercial classical radio station. We were lucky she chose to live in our community and honored when we learned she wanted to keep working in radio!

The staff of WUSF Public Media deeply mourn her loss – and those of us who worked with her on WSMR loved the way she loved music...and radio. We found her energy and enthusiasm for both quite inspiring.

We feel lucky to have known June and to have her for a wee bit of time in our lives and on WSMR. There will never be another June LeBell. That makes our time with her even more special. We said thank you to her in the past...but it doesn't seem like it was enough. There is a silence on the air now that will never quite be filled...forever.

Our love to June and to Ed and to their family.

Sheila Rue, Program Director WSMR