

Wibb's family are all very sorry to have to tell you that he died peacefully at home on Wednesday night (May 11), not long after dinner.

I was with him at home, with Timothy and both cats nearby. Wibb had recently been diagnosed with advanced Motor Neurone Disease, for which there is no cure. He was admitted to hospital on 25 April, with a chest infection. While he was there, the doctors said that he might live for two or possibly three months, but that it was time to call family. When they released him, on 6 May, he was delighted to return home. However, after five days his chest infection returned and he then declined rapidly, despite medical treatment.

Throughout his illness he remained very much the Wibb we have all always known and loved - articulate, funny, smiling. Even when he was barely able to speak, when the nurse asked what the initials "WIBB" stood for, he gave her a twinkling smile and told her that his full name in Latin was William Ignatius Bastardus Bennett. He was so happy to listen to the friends who played the flute to him in person while he was unwell, to all those who sent recordings and to his granddaughter Naomi, who played the saxophone to him over the telephone on Wednesday afternoon shortly before his death.

I first came to study with Wibb after I heard the Bach G minor concerto BWV 1056. I was particularly captivated by his rendition of the second movement (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAVm7zkmg3w>) and wondered how he was able to lend such a warm, singing quality to the top register. I felt as though the generous way he played that melody was an expression of his essence. It was not just a brilliant, beautiful sound; every note had its soul and under each one I felt sadness and warmth, as if every emotion was contained within the sound.

Wibb loved nothing more than playing music and often said that he felt lucky to have spent his life making a living by doing what he loved most. He always said "Be happy!" and "Find happiness in the phrase!" And throughout his life, he took that advice himself, bringing energy and life to everything he touched.

Thank you, Wibb, for giving so much happiness and inspiration. I miss you.

Michie