

Testimonial By Danijel Lozančić About Eugene Skeef

It is always a question: why do we want people in our lives? When a person is young, even if this question is clear to them, usually the answer to this question is non-existent or false. Maturity, experience, control of the zeal that was raging in youth, this is always something that helps us be good to ourselves, primarily. I must never forget intuition, simply because intuition is out of time. But, as with all our other tools, we do not use it enough, most of us don't.

With meeting and getting to know Eugene Skeef, my intuition was not wrong. It told me that this person held a power of life so close and yet so openly that only those who are control freaks would be opposed to it. I was not afraid, generally. And I met hundreds of people who came in contact with Eugene who were also mostly unafraid. I would say that we were drawn to expand ourselves by knowing and being with Eugene.

I remember when I would be hesitant or afraid to try something, take charge of the moment. And Eugene always encouraged me to step forward and do something about it. This ranged from playing drums, talking with people, thinking about how to solve problems, or just in general being more open to the world and myself. This quality was omnipresent about Eugene. And I also daily witnessed it with others. It is also very important to highlight that he was successful with it. Reason he was successful is because he cared. And caring always helps, because it empowers us to be more than we are.

Timing matters in life, as in music. And taking in consideration that every relationship is a two way street, the time Eugene and I met, February 1998, was exactly when we should have met. I first met Eugene at one of the percussion classes he held at Pavarotti Music Center (PMC) in Mostar. He was inspiring, and asking for more, from all of his students, regardless of age and who we were. At that time PMC was a Mecca for anyone who wanted to creatively express themselves and who wanted to, in a positive manner, unleash spiritual and emotional personal ghosts, and let them, not make mayhem, but rather get transformed into something positive. This is how I saw other people see what PMC was all about. And Eugene was instrumental in facilitating these processes. He often stood out as beacon, to many people, and showed guidance in many matters in people's lives. At times people would come to him in tears, lonely, misunderstood, and bruised. And this kind of "service" was priceless, simply because I am not sure if I ever met anyone who could do that, before or after Eugene, who had this as a part of their DNA. This is the evidence of his uniqueness and purpose.

Eugene and I, no matter the difference in personal history, our origins, age, never had issues that would not be overcome and turned into productive movement forward. This ability is specific to Eugene, as I saw him practice it daily. Everything can be solved, it is a lesson we should all remember.

I could go on about him and my time with him. But most importantly, the question to why have him in my life can only be answered with: in order to enrich my life!! What other reason should there be for having people we care for?!! And Eugene is full of riches. I am forever grateful for him.