

She was my second mother (although MY mother complained about the amount of time I spent at the Snodgrass home). It was so easy for me to cut through a few backyards and be in this musical environment that formed so much of who I am.

Now, she is going to be 98!! I will never forget when Kathleen (two years older than I) told me her mother had a blood clot and might die. I was sick with fear for some time and always thought she might leave me. I guess I had little to fear in that department.

Two things she taught me: Practicing is like putting money in the bank. Well, I have practiced enough to be a billionaire but still have to worry about bouncing checks! She also recommended that I always wash dishes...it was good to soak my hands and keep my fingers limber. I still wash dishes wherever I go. People think I'm crazy and say, "oh, you don't have to do THAT"..(oh, but I DO...Pauline told me to).

Pauline urged my parents to buy me the library's Art Cinema series. My parents would drive me to the Rex and I would sit alone watching films far beyond my ability to comprehend. I never knew anything about the films that would be shown...didn't matter because I was going anyway. One time they showed a filmed version of the opera Madama Butterfly. I couldn't believe that they SANG everything!!!. I have since worked with opera most of my career and have never lost the excitement that I had watching that film. (And, Madama Butterfly remains my favorite opera!!!).

Pauline was the director of the youth choir I sang in at the Methodist Church...now I to work with singers daily...I attribute my love of the human voice to her. She also, as my piano teacher, taught me to "sing" with piano music. I remember one time when I was playing Chopin that she said it was pointless....it had NO emotion. I play that piece a lot now and keep trying to put the emotion into it so Pauline will be proud.

These are just a very few thoughts I have...but they are filled with a great love for probably the most important influence in my life.

Roger Rundle