



Mr. Steven Richard May

November 11, 1957 - July 4, 2023

Steven Richard May, of Hinsdale, Massachusetts, passed away at age 65 on July 4, 2023, after a prolonged battle with Cholangiocarcinoma. He was born in Ayer, Massachusetts on November 11, 1957, to Eric May, 88, of Long Island, New York, and the late Roselyn May (née Davidson).

Steven was a musician and composer of progressive, avant-garde projects, both under his own name and pseudonyms such as BreviT and Commander Pants. He engaged in music video projects, and collaborations with artists such as Janis Ian and Greta Garbled. His work has been utilized in theatre, dance and film.

In tandem with his music, Steven was an ardent writer and novelist, penning short stories and authoring the novels *Whom God Would Destroy*, *A Fearful Thing*, and *The Social Compact*. He experimented with various methods of pairing his songs to his music.

Ever creating and innovating, Steven was the inventor of two board games, "Fourt" and the recipient of the Major Fun Award "Acronymble," that Steven developed into a Berkshire-based, award-winning, game show (aired on Pittsfield Public Access), of which he was the magnanimous host, overseeing a fabulous cast of recurring characters and guest players.

For the past ten years, Steven was employed by Gardens of the Goddess, doing fine, artful gardening. Prior, he worked as a mental health outreach counselor at Meridian Associates, where he was a passionate advocate for the population of Berkshire County affected by schizophrenia. He attended Paul Schreiber High School in Long Island, University of Colorado Boulder, and SUNY New Paltz.

He is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Gail Downey, 63 (an artist), his child Adam May, 24 (a musician), and his step-daughter, Ariel Brazee, 34 (a writer). Steven leaves two creative, clever granddaughters, Amelia & Audrey Brazee, eleven excellent nieces and nephews, myriad marvelous cousins and some wildly wonderful in-laws.

Steven is predeceased by his sister Leslie Osterman and his brother Jeffrey May, both beloved.

Steven enjoyed long distance bicycling, hiking in the White Mountains, camping in Peacham, VT, and winter sports (especially cross-country skiing). He adored wordplay, bizarre coincidences and deconstructing the absurd. His intellectual curiosity and sense of humor knew no bounds.

In his final days, Steven kept a musical diary surrounding his experience of dying. It can be found on Instagram and TikTok (under the name brevi.t).

Funeral Notice:

A memorial celebration for Steven Richard May will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North Street in Pittsfield, MA, from 11 am to 1 pm.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **29**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home
776 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-5094
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

BR

“ Meridian that we're I met Steve I had case worker there then she left Steven took over was there for me till I left the program just tonight I had dream he came see me Like other people I lost I didn't know he passed away when i woke up I searched his name hoping say hi Only see hes gone never forgotten till the day we meet again your be in my heart thank for the visit it must be gift I have My mom my nephew came see me in my dream I miss them all Steven Family God bless he was the best

Bruce - July 29, 2025 at 02:08 AM

Jl

“ Gail, I was so very, very sorry to see this...
Janis lan

Janis lan - July 22, 2023 at 07:37 PM

AG

“ I have very fond memories of working with Steve when he was with Meridian and I was a case manager at DMH. He was very empathic and genuine with clients, and he made productive connections with some very isolated clients.
As a musician, I was always fascinated by his creative life as well. His humor and enthusiasm were boundless. I was hoping to run into him one of these days to see what he was up to. I'm sorry to hear that he's gone and I will always remember him fondly. Andy Gordon

Andy Gordon - July 22, 2023 at 08:14 AM