



David Reader was the Principal Cellist with the Augusta Symphony and makes an appearance in Episode 86. He and I both enjoyed a great hang with Alex Henderson after a concert with the Augusta Symphony and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

David and I enjoyed many great hangs since we first met at Georgia State University 4 years ago. He was a very accomplished pianist, cellist, and hockey NUT. He and I would talk about hockey for hours. The only thing he seemed to know more about was music.

Perfect pitch, photographic recall, well-informed opinions of style.....David was a musical force to be reckoned with. Hours after posting Episode 86, I was informed that David had been murdered. Shot. Twice. In the chest. Car still running, cello in the back seat, David still in his tux following a Saturday night performance.

I was supposed to be on that performance with him, but last-minute scheduling conflicts prohibited that from happening.

I'm quite sure that he never imagined that Saturday would be his last performance. I'm also sure that it didn't matter.....he played every note with great intent and deliberation. I can guarantee it. That's how he was.

Speculations and accusations about the moments leading up to his murder abound. A simple Google search will lead you to numerous press reports and a litany of commentary about the case.

I knew David well. Not as well as some, but pretty well. We performed often together here in Atlanta and enjoyed a great summer last year at Quartz Mountain Festival in Oklahoma. We were planning a joint recital and I regret that we won't have that opportunity. I still have one of his CD's in my car. It's a Vienna Phil recording of Alpine Symphony. David knew every subtle detail of this recording and delighted in sharing it with me. I will delight in listening to it again and again.

I would like the Reader family to know that David was cherished and respected by many, many, many people. He was a most supportive colleague and significantly raised the musical standards of those around him. We wish the family peace and the knowledge that his life was lived well. He will be missed and his memory will arise often, I am sure, as the rest of us strive to continue doing what David had just begun in his too-short career....enhancing this world with meaningful music.

Rest in peace, David, and thanks for the many kind thoughts and words these past few years. I think the Pens have it in the bag this year, Detroit's looking tired.

