ROSENBERG alan

P.J.-B Pawtucket 7-2-1997

ALAN ROSENBERG, 55, of 19 Lafayette St., an assistant principal viola player for the R.I. Philharmonic Orchestra for many years, died Saturday after suffering a cardiac arrest while driving on the Route 10 and 6 connector in Providence. He was the husband of Elisabeth (Trostli) Rosenberg.

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Born in Providence, a son of the late Ralph and Barbara (Chase) Rosenberg, he lived in Pawtucket for the past two years, previously living in Cranston and Providence.

Mr. Rosenberg attended Florida State University and graduated from Rhode Island College in 1972 with a degree in music.

Mr. Rosenberg was a Mason and a member of the R.I. Federation of Musicians. His hobbies included photography and tennis.

The funeral will be held today at 9:30 a.m. at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial will be in the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter.

ROSENBERG, Alan
June 28, 1997. Residence 19 Lafayette St., Pawtucket, RI. Beloved Husband of Elisabeth (Trostli) Rosenberg. Funeral Services 9:30 am Tuesday at the MAX SUGARMAN MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 458 Hope St. (corner of Doyle Ave.) Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your favorite charity. Shiva will be private.

A life filled with music, beginning to end



Courtesy of Rhode Island Philharmonic

LAN ROSENBERG joined the ode Island Philharmonic as a la player in 1968.

By KEN MINGIS
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

PROVIDENCE — Alan Rosenberg seemed destined to be a musician.

His father, Ralph, played the flute and taught music in Florida — and he made sure that his son studied hard and practiced hard when he was young.

By the time he was an adult, Alan Rosenberg could coax notes from the piano, the clarinet, the piccolo and the viola — the instrument he played for 29 years as a member of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, until his death Saturday afternoon.

Rosenberg, a 55-year-old Rhode Island native, died of an apparent heart attack while driving on the Route 6/Route 10 connector. After he collapsed at the wheel, Rosenberg's car traveled backward on the highway for about a mile before coming to a stop. (His dog Tootsie, riding in the back seat, was unhurt in the accident.)

Rosenberg's widow, Elisabeth, recalled yesterday how her husband had many interests — and yet never seemed to stray far from his first love, music.

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"He was into all kinds of things," said Mrs. Rosenberg, of Pawtucket. "Archery. He had a horse. He liked to go riding. He went hiking ... In the last couple of years he had become interested in photography and tennis."

It was tennis, she said, that was probably on her husband's mind Saturday when he set off in his gold-colored Saturn.

"He was off to buy himself a second-hand tennis racket, I'm almost sure," Mrs. Rosenberg said. "Later on this summer, he was going to tennis camp. So he had happy thoughts in his mind."

Rosenberg's main focus was on his job as "second-desk violist," sharing duties with the Philharmonic's lead viola player. To him, it wasn't as much a job as the way he expressed himself.

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Musician

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"He felt a musician ... can't live without music, it's like breathing — you have to have it," she said. "It's a way of expressing your inner emotions. He had a lot of friends in the orchestra and he played with other groups. He played in New Bedford, in Worcester, Fall River, all over the place.

"He also liked the part about being in an orchestra, being within a larger entity and everyone together producing a sound," Mrs. Rosenberg said. "He never had an interest in performing solo. He liked being part of a larger group."

"We're absolutely devastated," Rhode Island Philharmonic marketing director Pamela P. Kennedy said yesterday. "It hit us like a ton of bricks."

Kennedy said that Rosenberg joined the Philharmonic's viola section in 1968 and worked his way up. He also served in the orchestra's union.

"I know the Philharmonic was very important to him," Kennedy said, "and that people here liked him a lot. He was a nice, nice person."

Kennedy said she expects one of next season's concerts to be dedicated to the memory of Rosenberg. The orchestra has yet to contact music director Larry Rachleff, who lives in Houston and is apparently out of town, with news of Rosenberg's death.

Said Mrs. Rosenberg: "He carried himself like a musician. He always wore tuxedos. They looked like they were born on him. He was always very professional. He always got to the job on time. He never skipped work. Even when he was sick, he went.

"He did not believe in a musician having another job," she said, adding that her husband's philosophy was simple: "If you're a musician, that's what you do."

With staff reports from Channing Gray.