



Jack Mackie
April 11, 1946 – August 21, 2026

A Celebration of 80 years
Sunday, October 11, 2026

Edmonds Waterfront Center

"This breaks my heart."



*"He was such
an important
part of all
of our lives."*

The program

Adagio for Strings

Samuel Barber

Performed by I Musici (Phillips, 1962)

Welcome

Anne Mackie

Why Art?

In Jack's own words (PBS video)

Piano selection

David Little

Remembering Jack

Randy Sue Coburn

Beyond "Dance Steps"

Ellen Sollod, read by Karen Place

A Life Making Art

Tommer Peterson, What It Is: Studio

Slideshow and Musical Medley

David Little

Pie Break

Slice it up!

Open Mic

Remembering Jack

Jack's family thanks you for celebrating with us today, and for honoring his memory. We especially appreciate the care he received at Virginia Mason Hospital and Bothell Health Care.

Thank you David Little, pianist and family friend, for striking a chord into our hearts. And, this day would not have been possible without Jack's dear friends Warren Wilkins and Tommer Peterson. Their creative inspiration, technical expertise, love of Jack, and even the floral arrangements made this an *à la mode* day.

*"...his response was
'Shut up and dance!'
I treasure those words."*

For starters

Jack was born in Princeton, New Jersey, the second son of Joseph R. Mackie and Frances Campbell Mackie, both music students at Westminster Choir College. Before starting a family they were performers in *The Lost Colony* outdoor theater on Roanoke Island, North Carolina. Their choral music careers took them to Orlando, Florida, where Jack enjoyed a childhood filled with water skiing, beaching, jitterbug dancing, music performances, and his mother's piano serenades every night while falling asleep.

In 1959 Jack's family moved to Edmonds, Washington, where he graduated with the Edmonds High School Class of 1964. He sang in the choir and, not surprisingly, was chosen *Campus Flirt* for his high school yearbook. Jack then attended Western Washington State College (now Western Washington University), took some time off to earn money in Alaska where he struck no gold, and returned to Seattle to land a job at the University of Washington Henry Art Gallery.

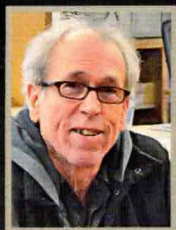
What It Is: Studio

In the beginning, WII:S was the confluence of artists Jack Mackie, Tommer Peterson, and Warren Wilkins, each of whom thought the other two were already good friends. They shared a world view, wack humor, skills (both overlapping and complimentary), and an appreciation of the absurd. They made art individually and collaboratively, and tackled various projects in the attempt to earn a living. When all else failed, they revisited their motto, "A sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."



*"Grievous news.
What It Is.
What it was.
What a trip we're on."*





*"I have such lovely
memories of Jack.
Thank you for letting
me know."*

*"He was so much
a part of the warp
and weft of this city."*

Art wrangling

In 1977 he was a founding member of Artech, a Seattle company managing art restoration, shipping, packaging, and displays. Jack fell in with a rowdy crowd of artists in 1978 doing Seattle's First Avenue Project, a series of benches and street trees – a radical concept.

The art of making places public

Jack was sometimes goofy – like nailing a blue chair 20 feet high in a tree outside the Virginia Inn on First Avenue – and most times inspired when integrating a city's history, customs, and culture into one of his projects. Over his 40-year career he worked on large scale transit projects, airports, streetscapes, and parks. These projects took him to Albuquerque, Chattanooga, Fort Worth, Louisville, Miami, Norfolk, Reno, Scottsdale, and more recently Cary and Burnsville, North Carolina. In 1995 Jack was appointed to the Seattle Arts Commission, and in 1999 he received a Washington State Arts and Heritage Award from then-Governor Gary Locke.

Dance Steps

Jack is probably best known locally for the 1982 project "Dance Steps on Broadway," a series of bronze footprints embedded in the sidewalks along Broadway Avenue East, in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood. The project, a collaboration with artist Chuck Greening, launched Jack's public art career. In the late 1980s, Jack was a lead artist for Seattle's Metro Bus Tunnel project. Here he learned the "art" of collaboration with municipal departments, transportation engineers, and architects.

Why sidewalks? Jack explains

"I love sidewalks. It's where people go to get from here to there, from home to work, from work to lunch, from work to home, from home to school, from school to home, from school or home to the art gallery or museum or café or swimming pool or movies, or friend's home for a walk, or from home to violin practice... it's a place best described as 'the in-between,' not where I was nor where I'm going.... This is where I love to work...possibly creating a moment, an aha." (Excerpt from writer April Halprin Wayland's 2017 interview with Jack.)

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/54TFKB5K](https://tinyurl.com/54TFKB5K)

And, why benches?

"A place to invite us to have a seat, take a look around, ask, where are we?" In Cary, North Carolina, Jack created the "Academy Street Medley," a series of carved granite benches in the shape of musical instruments etched with poetry. He explains: "Every place has stories to tell; as a public / civic artist it's my task to find the stories and find the story-teller's voice. The work is not about me, it must be about the people who live in a place, people who make that place their homes. I'm just the go-between who illuminates what's already there. That's where I always begin. In the long list of 'stuff' for a streetscape are benches."

The intersection of art and healing

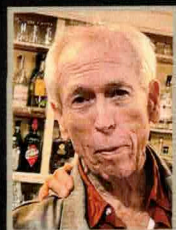
In 1993 at age 47 Jack was diagnosed with bladder cancer. The following 33 years brought many more health challenges. As he bounded back each time, he was more driven with renewed bravery and that fabulous sense of humor. Art was healing for Jack, and he shared that



*"Heartbreaking.
He was still a child,
for heaven's sake."*

*"His indelible spirit
was remarkable."*





"Such a force."

*"The world can't afford
to lose any more brilliant
artists and humans."*



vision in projects with the University of Wisconsin at Madison Health Center, the University of Washington Medical Center, and Harborview in Seattle.

Jack's family

Jack is survived by his wife of 21 years, Linda Massey; brother Joe Mackie and sister Anne Mackie; nieces Jessica Lindsay (Dave) and Jacqueline Perry (Darryl); nephews James Passey, Paul Ostby, Jay Ostby (Sarah); and great nephews Cooper Lindsay, and Alyn and Beckham Ostby.

"Aha" moments from Jack

Crossing, Albuquerque, New Mexico

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/BDFY7XRM](https://tinyurl.com/BDFY7XRM)

The Burnsville Gateway, Burnsville, North Carolina

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/NHASX29X](https://tinyurl.com/NHASX29X)

Academy Street Medley, Cary, North Carolina

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YEYTRW3](https://tinyurl.com/YEYTRW3)

Ross' Landing, Chattanooga, Tennessee

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YMZVWA4E](https://tinyurl.com/YMZVWA4E)

Bridged Leaves, Reno, Nevada

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MTUS84U5](https://tinyurl.com/MTUS84U5)

The Plaza, Seattle Washington

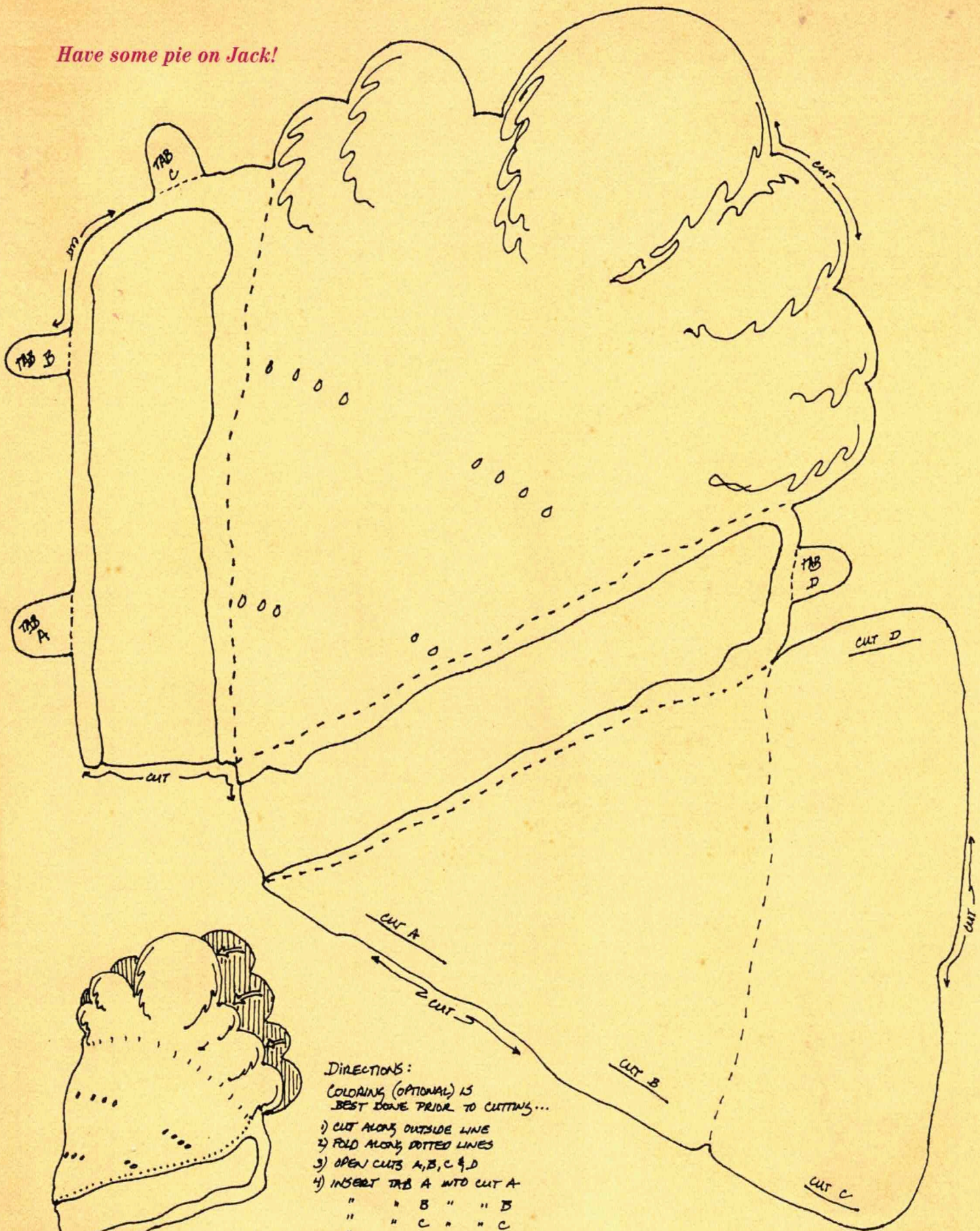
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MUWSDFHE](https://tinyurl.com/MUWSDFHE)

Dance Steps on Broadway, Seattle Washington

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YC2V3WTS](https://tinyurl.com/YC2V3WTS)

*"Such a cheering, alert human,
as my memory recreates him."*

Have some pie on Jack!

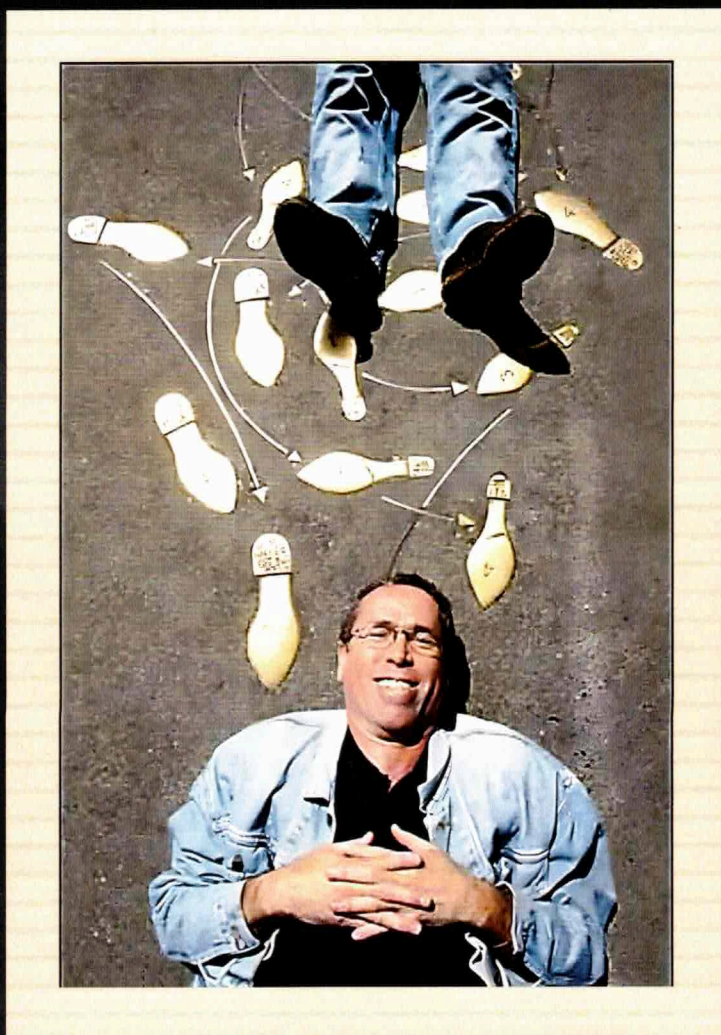


DIRECTIONS:

COLDING (OPTIONAL) IS
BEST DONE PRIOR TO CUTTING...

- 1) CUT ALONG OUTSIDE LINE
- 2) FOLD ALONG DOTTED LINES
- 3) OPEN CUTS A, B, C & D
- 4) INSERT TAB A INTO CUT A
 " " B " " B
 " " C " " C
 " " D " " D
- 5) FOLD CRUST EDGE FORWARD
AS SHOWN

P.S. A LITTLE GLUE OR TAPE HERE & THERE MIGHT BE USEFUL



"Damn! He was a good one."