In Memoriam of Peter Kolesnikow, my dear friend
by Paul J. Wigowsky

In Remembrance of my dear friend, Peter Kolesnikow (center), who passed away yesterday (Saturday, Mar. 29, 2014). I'm going to miss you, my dear friend, and I will always remember the quartet conventions and concerts that we went to and the music that we shared. [Note: Arnold Kotow on the left, and Paul J. Wigowsky on the right]

I was told Peter suffered a massive heart attack. He was only 61 -- much younger than I am. That definitely makes us pause and reflect on Peter's life and on our own mortality (on this earth).

Nov. 6, 1952- March 29, 2014
As I was reminiscing about the passing of my friend Peter Kolesnikow from this earth, I thought of the times in our journey through Life that our paths crossed. I thought of the times in San Mateo (CA) when we went to the same church, with Pastor Notzkowski. I thought of the time when I came back from the Vietnam War (1971) and Peter befriended me and asked me to play the synthesizer in the group he had formed. I remembered when Pete was my "Most Fantastic Friend" in my wedding -- a man "head and shoulders" above the rest of us. When I moved to Oregon to pursue my teaching career (1976), our lives went separate ways. But when I retired and moved back to California (2003) with my wife Elsa, it seemed like we were destined to meet again. We met again and again, and Pete's love for quartet music drew us together again. We went to Quartet Conventions (near Fresno) and concerts (Hoppers, Greater Vision, Gaithers, etc.) near Sacramento. Peter and Chris invited us to their daughter Katie's wedding in 2008. When I moved back to Oregon in 2012, I was sad to be leaving my annual trips with Peter to the quartet concerts. I will miss him -- but I will hear his voice singing through the recorded music (in Ukrainian) that he left for all of us to enjoy.
Peter is on the right. I was playing the synthesizer in the San Mateo church with Pete’s musical group (Ben Delevan, Andrew Kolesnikow, Peter Ilyin). Peter befriended me when I came back from Vietnam, and he invited me to play in the group.
Peter (on the left) was in my wedding in 1972. Outside the bride's house (1972).

The wedding party (1972). Peter is on the right.

Elsa and I were both "old friends" with Pete. She remembered him when they both were in the same Russian school class in SF.
We had a fantastic time with Peter and Chris aboard the "Delta King" in Old Town Sacramento. They were helping us celebrate our 33rd wedding anniversary (2005).

I visited Peter several times at his Specialty Metal Spinning shop in Sacramento.
It was a pleasure having Peter and Chris visit us at our Antioch house when we were living in California (Memorial Day, 2005).
Peter was the proud dad at his daughter Katie’s wedding in Old Town Sacramento. 2008.

[My letter to Pete's family: Jennifer, Chris, and Katie -- The Memory of your Dad will live in our hearts, minds, and souls forever! I am so saddened by the loss of a dear childhood friend, and I feel for your loss of a great Dad and Husband. He loved you (as family) and he loved us (as friends).
I listen to his music (songs) every day now -- in Remembrance of the Message that he proclaimed in song. I have devoted a web page to his songs, which I hope will inspire everyone who listens to them. May God grant you peace and comfort in your time of sorrow!
http://wigowsky.com/songs/PeteK/PeteK.htm]
John Renee Michno

My best man from my 1980 wedding (Peter Kolesnikow) went to be with the Lord last night! Although this was a surprise to all his family and friends, we rest in our united faith in Christ Jesus. Jesus has conquered sin and death and we who rest in Christ as believers can have an assurance of spending eternity with Jesus and all the Church (John 3:16). I look forward to seeing Peter in eternity!
Sad news... My close friend that I sang with for 2 years, Pete Kolesnikow, standing 2nd from right, died last night of a massive heart attack.

Walter Cebula, on far right, is also with the Lord. We will miss them both! Pete sang the song "О Журавлі" at our 40th Anniversary live concert.

This photo was taken in 1984 in Ternopil, Ukraine.
Peter was best known for the groups he sang with. His mellow baritone-bass voice was a pleasure to listen to -- [http://youtu.be/AM5JuNYeH7E](http://youtu.be/AM5JuNYeH7E)

**Листя Осіннії - George Davidiuk**

Співають: Таня Половіч, Віктор Мацюк, Петро Колесников і Джордж Давидюк.