

Dans 2022



Kristin, Kaitlin, Ellen and Harry Dan

We've had months of busy firsts and lasts...the last band concerts of high school and Baltimore Youth Orchestra (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUO5BtNm8M>) and Kristin's first concert in college. Kaitlin has decided not to play at school until this spring when she hopes to be part of the pit for the musicals. She is hoping to be on oboe and English horn. She is pretty good at juggling the wood wind book on flute, pic, oboe and horn but there may be enough kids so that she would only need to do oboe and horn. Both girls were in the pit at Good Counsel for *Ragtime* last spring.

Last day of high school was mid May and graduation was at the Basilica in Washington D.C. – a very pretty venue – their class was pretty big so they needed to have a large amount of seating. Sadly I had covid the week before and didn't feel all that great but did go to the ceremony. Kristin was in choir and loved playing piano with the group, and the director loved having her as she is pretty flexible accompanying and she could go with the flow when there were oopsies in the choir or he decided to do one more verse.

Soon after graduation the girls took their first trip away from home without parents...they went to Colorado with their first cousins and had a fabulous time camping, hiking, water paddling and visiting beautiful Rocky Mt. parks.

Both girls selected the Univ of Maryland as their first choice and we are happy they are close to home (about 30 minute drive). Kristin is a math major and is thinking of something with biology and research. Kaitlin is in the engineering school and is on the civil track. I think she is leaning towards some career dealing with environmental sustainability. I suppose these may change but the first semester has gone extremely well for both of them.

Kaitlin is very artistic and does a lot of watercolor flowers and animals – they look like they are leaping off the page. She also joined the pottery studio at school and uses that as her quiet time relaxing thing. Kristin did a rubix cube tournament and did well enough to be ranked – which we think is pretty funny. Not sure where that will take her but was fun and something she wanted to do for a long time.

Harry and Ellen took their first trip without the girls and went to Indiana for a friend's wedding. The couple first met in college, broke up and got married 40 years later – it is a lovely story for two really sweet friends. Other trips to Longwood Gardens and the National Arboretum were with Harry's very social Tai Chi group. As a family we loved the National Spy Museum which provided a peak into the world of espionage.

Harry is now retired! And does a lot of refereeing volleyball and plays some too. I do a lot of sewing and made 100 fleece hats to donate to Samaritans Purse for their Operation Christmas Child shoe box project. The four of us worked at the processing center over Thanksgiving and had a lot of fun doing it.

The end of high school and start of college took most of our time this year and we have now settled into a new norm.

Happy New Year and we wish the best for everyone and don't forget to hug your precious family.

Kristin on piano, Kaitlin on flute. https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPvg82YOwdPN-6WJB4jrqCjN8-0E5SYNB-s5ESrs7TvdAaAbyfhNYxWt7MDmbUPXg/photo/AF1QipOiwABUGCKIQellv_KhLUEPAGyUsh8OOyliZOT8?key=RHRIUm9LTFEPaThHSmR4QjIzeDhXR0p4O EZGtFB

Harry, Ellen, Kristin and Kaitlin Dan



















