



Brian Jasper Hull

February 21, 1970 - October 20, 2025

Brian Jasper Hull, of Montels, France, formerly of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed away in Fort Collins on October 20th, 2025. Brian was a longtime resident of Colorado and had recently moved to France with his wife and daughter to be closer to family.

Brian was born on February 21st, 1970, in Inglewood, California to John and Mary Hull. His father was in the Air Force, which took the young family to live in Taiwan. Upon returning to the U.S., they settled in Arlington and Dallas, Texas. Eventually the family relocated to Denver, Colorado, where Brian spent his high school years and graduated from Cherry Creek High School. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree in philosophy and journalism from Baylor University and a master's degree in English literature from Colorado State University.

On September 19th, 2000, Brian married his French bride, Mélina Demotié Bernhardt. The early years of their marriage were spent in Fort Collins; they then relocated to Toulouse, France for three years and then a community in Gardner, Colorado, for two years. It was there that they adopted Vatito, their first four-legged companion. Brian and Mellina eventually returned to Fort Collins, bought a home, and on November 2nd, 2012, welcomed their daughter, Zora, into the world. After losing Vatito, they adopted their current four-legged companion, Archie.

Brian was a poet, author, musician, song writer, band leader and teacher. His dad taught him how to play the guitar when he was 15, from there on he became an accomplished, self-taught musician. He played in many bands including Ezra's Poundcake, Meadowlark Jivin', Brian Hull & Funky People and The Jasper Grooves Collective. He was a published author and released over half a dozen albums.

Brian began teaching as substitute teacher at junior high and high schools in both Colorado and Texas. He became an adjunct faculty instructor at CSU for five years and was very proud to have created two classes while teaching at the Honor's Program at CSU. One class was about music and culture; the other was about the philosophical concept of the "Other."

His mother was an avid cook and as Brian grew up, she instilled in him the love of cooking and gathering. Travel also influenced his love of people, culture and music. He made friends wherever he went and touched the lives of many in communities from the American West to Europe and the Caribbean, through teaching and music.

Brian loved the outdoors and enjoyed hiking, golfing, snow shoeing and biking. He was an enthusiastic skateboarder and a "worrisome" skier at best! He was fluent in French and Spanish and was an ardent reader, a book worm often reading five books at a time. He was a big fan of the Denver Nuggets.

As a practicing Buddhist he took part in silent and group meditation retreats.

Brian is survived by his wife Mélina, his daughter Zora, their dog Archie and by his aunts and uncles Barbara and Sam, Margaret and Tom, Skip and their families. He is survived by many friends.

Two memorial gatherings will be held in Brian's honor. The first will be on Saturday November 8th from 10:30am to 2:30pm at the Agave Room above the Rio Grande restaurant. The memorial will be followed by a buffet lunch and concert featuring Brian's bandmates. Mélina will also host a Celebration of Life brunch on November 9th from 11-3 at The Neighbor (formerly Everyday Joes.) Family and friends are invited to casually gather for brunch and to share stories, poetry, photos and remembrances of Brian.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Brian's name to Idea Wild, ideawild.org, a non-profit that promotes biodiversity and conservation, a cause near and dear to his heart.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 8. 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM (MT)

The Agave Room
149 West Mountain Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Celebration of Life

NOV 9. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (MT)

The Neighbor
144 South Mason Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524-2812

Tribute Wall

CR

“*Brian was the older brother I never had. We met in 1986, when we were but 16 and born the same year. He had a spiral fracture in one of his legs from skiing and walking around in a boot with guitar the first time I saw him in front of his 87 Chevy Blazer. I knew we would be tight from that moment on. And we were.*



He introduced me to the Denver punk scene in the 80's and I watched his sound and guitar smarts evolve into what it is today. He played with SO many artists in Colorado, that I would miss 90 percent of them if I tried to mention.

I recall seeing him on stage a few times with 'Electric Swingset' featuring keyboard player Jeremy Lawton, of Big Head Todd and the Monsters and with the 'Psychodelic Zombiez' in Denver 1996. There were also countless jazz sessions at 'El Chapultepec' which was a historic jazz and blues club in Denver that closed sadly in 2020.

His creativity was authentic, emotive and soulfully energizing. May the winds of universe take you to your next realm of greatness and please tune us in. You were our dear 'Mr. Fantasy' the leader of the band.

Amazing father and husband as well. A true legend.

We will never forget ~

Corbin Runnels - November 14, 2025 at 08:35 PM

KK

“ *Kathy Knuffke lit a candle in memory of Brian Jasper Hull*



Kathy Knuffke - November 11, 2025 at 10:44 AM

DA

Hello Kathy. Your husband Kirk a gifted brass musician I saw in one of Brian's bands long ago. then one day, I asked Brian if he wanted to go see Charlie Hunter down in Denver and he said absolutely a good friend of mine is currently touring with Charlie and what I witnessed was nothing but originality and greatness from your husband Kirk. Afterwards, I met him and realized he was also very humble. That experience will always be a remembrance of positivity.

Dean Arnold - December 08, 2025 at 11:37 PM

MO

“ *Brian was a wonderful, kind, talented, and intelligent man, and we shared a love of music and performing as well as a sense of humor. Brian had me create sheet music for his bands, to more easily facilitate the performing of his complex and brilliantly interesting musical arrangements. He'd come over and sit next to me at the computer with his guitar, and we'd hash out an arrangement that made sense for the song while chewing the fat over the events of the day. It was always an honor and a pleasure to work with him, and he will be missed very, very much.*

Michael Olson - November 09, 2025 at 12:08 PM

DA

I remember much about you Michael, but what I do remember is how gifted a bassist you were when I saw you perform at least three or four times in the early '90s I think. thank you for your recollections of my late friend, Brian Jasper Hull.

Dean Arnold - December 08, 2025 at 11:41 PM

DA

“ *Dee Amick sent a virtual gift in memory of Brian Jasper Hull*



Dee Amick - November 08, 2025 at 08:44 PM



“ *I met Brian in France almost 30 years ago. He had already met Mélina and was visiting before she left to return with him — and soon after, they got married. We were in our early twenties then; it all felt good and a little insane, the way youth does.*

And yet, decades later, Mélina and Brian seemed like the very same couple I had witnessed at the beginning of their love story — strong, joyful, musical, and deeply connected — with Zora, their sweet daughter, as the cherry on top.

Rarely have I seen a family as strong, united, and full of love as theirs. A couple of years ago, my son and I visited them in Colorado, and, like every time I saw Brian, I left feeling I'd learned something important about life.

*A couple of weeks ago, I happened to start reading *All About Love* by bell hooks, the very book Brian introduced me to two-three years ago when we visited them. I hadn't opened it until now. And what a lesson about love it is.*

People often say the best ones leave too soon. Brian truly did. My heart is with Mélina and Zora.

Julie Canclini - November 08, 2025 at 03:22 PM

DH

“ My heart goes out to Brian's family, loved ones, all who knew him. I didn't know Brian well. I think, during the pandemic, I was picking up masks that Melina made for Pine Ridge Reservation with some cloth I had, I chatted with him briefly about his music, which I had not heard. He gave me a recently released CD. More recently, after their going away party, Brian showed up at our new place to help dig trenches. I was shocked, as this isn't fun work! I think it was reflective of Brian, as well as his family. Kindhearted, caring people.

Danny Hesser - November 06, 2025 at 05:19 AM



“ Brian took a French course with me in 2008 and then we became friends. He was so open to other people, other cultures and ways of thinking. He and Melina were generous hosts and welcomed friends of all walks of life. Brian went out of his way to make my husband, who's from Morocco, feel at home in the U.S. Brian's creativity showed up in many ways - his poetry, stories, songwriting, music, dress, humor, language use, in his teaching. I keep fond memories of Brian performing in concerts, at parties, and having lively conversations on topics that mattered. Melina and Zora, my heart goes out to you! And to all Brian's loved ones and friends. What a loss!

Mary Vogl - November 04, 2025 at 04:51 PM

MH

“ We will miss you Brian. You were such a wonderful friend and colleague. God Bless Your Soul. Love & Peace

Mohammed Hirchi - November 04, 2025 at 10:14 AM

MS

“ Found my way here after hearing of Brian's passing. I knew Brian back in my Colorado days, and I liked him very much – he was a very good musician, and a very nice man. My condolences to all who loved him.

Mike Smith - November 03, 2025 at 03:15 PM

OI

“ We will always remember his kind and friendly way and the good conversations we had with him. Olaf and Ioana

Olaf & Ioana - November 03, 2025 at 04:54 AM

TJ

“Wow. Saddened by this huge loss to the world of music and culture. My friend Brian Hull was a light. Illuminating song in a poetic encapsulation and soulful sounds with his and unique voice. I met Brian at a student concert at Lamont School of Music in Denver my freshman year. He approached me in that cool but studious way had about him and we exchanged numbers. A couple years later he call my dad thru directory assistance and found me and asked if I would interested in playing with a band called Ezra's Poundcake. He sent the material and I joined as a late member. Moving on a year or so later I joined as an original member on sax Meadowlark Jivin'. I recorded the three albums and performed with them when I could from '97 til ,03 and briefly reunited in '13. I loved it. Brian was like a brother and was the other members of Meadowlark Jivin' (and sis with Ms Audree D.) Countless road gigs with crazy directions and weird people sometimes but ultimately learning Colorado and Wyoming as I played with them. Those years were very formative for me I really appreciate it Brian influencing me musically but also personally with his intelligence and willingness to stretch and create with no bounds. We had great conversations at times and above all else I always felt a musical kinship with him even if it was from a distance. I ran into Brian and Zora at a play that my good friend Mary Louise Lee was doing in Aurora and it was great to see him. We caught up and I told him I said I got to reunite with Meadowlark at least one more time but my own career has a national artist in radio hosts kind of got in the way but I always cherish the conversations we had and keeping up with him on Facebook then this happens and I didn't even realize he had moved to France. I felt bad that we had lost touch. Oddly enough right before I found out found some old pics of us in the photo shoot from the second album. It was a goofy pic of us all jumping up in the air except I stayed grounded with my cool little pose different from everybody else but it was such a cool mix of personalities that still makes me smile to this day. Great experiences with Brian car accidents, bad directions and fun funky times on stage to boot. He was a treasure to all who knew him. I'm very sad on this loss I do have an actual vinyl copy of a Jasper's Groove album and I have a CD of his first

solo project. One thing that I hold dear to me is that when Brian was in France my daughter Lailah was born. She was born premature andy lady and I had just lost a son prior. Things were very stressful but I emailed Brian to inform him of the news. Her name inspired a sing in him and wrote "Lailah Larae Marie" in her honor. That touched me and family in a very special way. Off and tease them that he beat me to it. Wrote a song about my daughter before I got a chance to LOL. But that was Brian incredibly creative and masterfully poetic in his lyricism. I got a chance to record that's very song with me on sex on the final project with Meadowlark that I was on and I love it. My condolences to the family and friends. Just know that I loved him like a brother and his experience in my life will never be forgotten. I guess now he got a chance for his ""Meadowlark" to Jive....soar on Brian....til we meet again my friend.....

Tony Exum, Jr. - November 02, 2025 at 03:23 PM

DH



Deborah Ham - November 02, 2025 at 08:59 PM

KK

Brian Hull was a force in life that will not be matched. He was a faithful friend to our son, Kirk. He was always my first choice as a substitute teacher. I always knew my students were in good hands while I was gone. I am so sad that he died. He will come again to teach the world kindness and love.

Kathy Knuffke - November 11, 2025 at 10:41 AM

HÉ

“ *Brian, what a shock !*

We talked on the phone in September, when you shared your doubts about adjusting to France and, as a long time traveler, i reminded you that it took time to.... adjust, precisely...

We have been friends since... 1993 or 2 or 4, at Baylor U, when you were one of the rare forms of "normality" that I, little French exchange student, found in that... particular environment ! We remained in touch since then, shared from time to time some tips on Toulouse, raising a child, adjusting to life abroad or being a good person !!

My thoughts are with you and this new travel your are undertaking, with Melina and Z. to whom I send love and hearts, to your family and friends.

Farewell Brian. Have a good journey wherever your are, and don't hesitate to come and say hi to me from one of the rainbows stationed in front of my balcony.

Hélène



Hélène - November 02, 2025 at 12:02 PM

DH



Deborah Ham - November 02, 2025 at 09:02 PM

DH

I met Brian through Melina! I frequented Brian's and the bands and many musical connections he was with at the moment. He was kind, had a big heart and had a smile that was a gift. I never had a deep conversation with Brian, yet just being in the same room there was this peace and my friendship with Melina...and the birth of Z-Bird really closed the deal. I lost my husband and the friend I found with Brian and Melina was small comparative to other friends of theirs, but I cherished it. He and Melina gifted me with their time. I was there during when Z-Bird was born. Hard to believe that was 2012! Brian and Melina brought a beautiful soul into the world, another tie to their family. Melina, I am saddened beyond my own imagined capacity for you and Z. Thank you for sharing your hearts and home with me. I am sending hugs and love!

Zora, I am deeply saddened there wasn't more time with your Dad. I feel he left his deep impression on you that will be with you throughout your life.

Brian thank you for sharing your home. your family and your time. Say hello to my husband, Pat. You two would have liked each other here on earth and hopefully will meet in heaven at a John Coltrane event :)

Deborah Ham - November 02, 2025 at 09:27 PM

MS

I had always heard of Meadowlark Jivin, before Spotify really was a thing, but I was gigging in my own band those years, and didn't make it out to see them. So when Elizabeth Hudetz introduced me to Brian at one of her famous pot lucks, it was there that I finally found out the genius of this rare musician and person. He was a very hospitable host with his wife and daughter, and they had many fun parties and friends. He invited me to sing with him in Jasper Grooves Collective for a while, about two years. He always made sure we were rehearsed enough, so the music sounded great. He shared with me his song, Into the Blue - a song that will always stand out to me, beautiful. He is missed and I get together with our mutual friends and we mourn him. Miss you, Brian. Too soon. Melina and Zora- I love you girls. Let me know if you ever need something. Xo I'm sorry, I will be out of town until November 15th, and will miss the memorial. Otherwise I wouldn't miss it for anything.

Meredith Salimbeni - November 03, 2025 at 12:28 AM

DP

*Brian was so kind, open-minded and sensitive. It was always a great pleasure to speak to him. And to hear and to see him playing the guitar. So happy to sing.
He's now in his country.
Have a nice travel, Brian. We keep you in our mind with your beautiful smile.*

DEGEMARD DECERLE PASCALE - November 08, 2025 at 03:39 AM

KA

Brian. You will be missed. A good soul will always live. Kathy K

kathy - November 12, 2025 at 03:32 PM

DA

*Although I did not have a chance to say goodbye to you my brother, I can now clearly wish you the best afterlife one could even wish for.
May we meet again on the other side.*

Dean Arnold - December 08, 2025 at 11:52 PM

JT

“ *I have known Brian over a few decades, not well, but I every time I saw him he had a cheerful smile and a friendly word. We're very sorry to hear of his passing. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his friends and family.*

Jim Tolstrup - November 02, 2025 at 12:02 PM