

# V In Memory

By Helen Marketti

## Memories of Michael Heaton

Michael Heaton wrote for the Cleveland Plain Dealer for over 30 years.

His articles and stories brought entertainment, knowledge and enjoyment for his many readers who followed his column. Sadly, in September of this year, Michael Heaton passed away leaving a void to those who loved him.

On Sunday, November 27, Michael was remembered and honored at an event at the Beachland Ballroom. Family members, friends, musicians, colleagues and devoted readers attended to reminisce, laugh, cry and listen to music for the man who was referred to as, "The Minister of Culture".

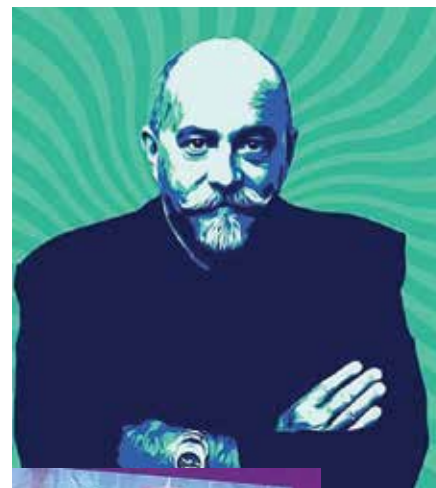
Michael Heaton was a staple to the Cleveland music, pop culture and entertainment scene. His stories went beyond stage and presentation as he took interest in those who lived life and had a story to tell. His sister, Patricia Heaton tearfully and warmly spoke of her brother from childhood to adulthood, expressing at first their sometimes-distant relationship while growing up especially after the death of their mother

that eventually evolved to closeness, friendship and understanding.

His daughter, Zoe shared that she is going to do stand-up comedy and take some time to learn the craft in honor of her father. She shared that he had a sense of humor and made people laugh and she plans to do the same to honor his memory.

One of his devoted readers is a gentleman named, Jack Schaffer who had this to say about Michael's columns. "I have always loved how he describes his experiences. I feel his columns have enriched my life and taught me things I wasn't aware of at that time. We are so fortunate to have the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland and we were just as fortunate to have had Michael Heaton as a great informative writer."

Cleveland area radio DJ, Ray Carr was dubbed "Cleveland's Renaissance Man" by Michael. They had a great friendship and professional rapport. "Michael made you feel like you were there with him, sharing the experience he was



A TRIBUTE TO  
**MICHAEL HEATON**  
THE MINISTER OF CULTURE

Sunday, November 27, 2022  
6:00pm + Beachland Ballroom  
Great Music + Funny Stories + Selected Readings

MUSICAL GUESTS  
Carlos Jones, Alex Bevan, Becky Boyd,  
Austin Walkin' Cane, Colin Dussault, Dennis Devito,  
Wish Queen & more to be announced!

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS  
Patricia Heaton (Michael's sister), Mike McIntyre,  
Dan Coughlin, Mike Polk, Charlie Wiener, David Spero,  
John Gorman, Mark "Munch" Bishop, Ray Carr  
& more to be announced!  
Emcee: Paaky Malley



Ray Carr



Patricia Heaton



John Gorman



Austin & Kristine



Mike Polk

**Winter is here... It's not too late to escape!**



**Fly South for the winter and let me help you find the perfect place to land!**

**I cover the entire Tampa Bay area as well as the Gulf Coast of Florida. Specializing in the Lakeland area. Contact me Today!**



**Austin Stouder | REALTOR®**  
**LIVE FLORIDA REALTY**



**Office: 863.868.8905 | Text: 813.669.7047**  
Email: austin@LiveFLRealty.com  
W: LiveFLRealty.com • austinstouderhomes.com  
3214 Gardner Rd Lakeland, FL 33810

writing about. He had his hand on the pulse of Cleveland at all times," remembers Ray.

The evening at Beachland Ballroom brought about great music talent from musicians that Michael befriended and interviewed. His friends and colleagues remembered their friend with amusing stories as well as heartfelt tears. Each memory shared made you feel like you knew Michael even if you had never met him. He was well liked, well respected and above all, loved. Serving as an emotional backdrop for the evening was an ongoing slide show that provided glimpses into Michael's youth, family, friendships and career.

John Gorman, an essential in Cleveland's radio scene for more than fifty years as the former Vice President and Director of Operations at WMMS. Most recently he was the Prin-

cipal and Chief Content Officer at oWOW streaming radio station. John had this to say, "Michael Heaton knew his readers and gave them what they wanted. His Minister of Culture columns were offbeat primers of popular culture. In Michael's occasional biographical sketches in the Sunday Plain Dealer Magazine, he would always reveal a curious snippet you didn't expect about someone you knew or introduced you to someone you should know no matter how unconventional they were. We knew one another for at least 35 years, and I always learned something new from him or about him. Michael was one of a kind."

Michael Heaton made an impression on those he met. One of his many friends said he will miss Michael but what he will also miss is his words.