

Guitarist: Buck Described As Great Musician

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"I know we're all going to mourn, just because we're here to say goodbye," Lombardo said. "We're also here to celebrate a life. Everyday we stay alive, let's remember him. Let's emulate the side of him that was creative and delightful, that was into having a good time when the sun was up and after it was down. Let's give each other as much music as we have inside."

Drew, a founding member of the band, described Buck as a great artist and musician.

"Love is a difficult thing to put into words. So is joy and trust and loyalty," Drew said. "And Rob was all of those things. Rob loved life completely and intensely. He was a great artist and a great musician and he taught me everything I know about art, about letting go of that fear of making a mistake and

allowing yourself to learn and grow."

Drew spoke of Buck's love for his mother and the stories he would share during the band's rehearsals.

"For all his art and for all his intellect, he probably wouldn't have been able to tie his shoes if it wasn't for his mother," he said. "He loved his mother very much. He spoke of Carol and Ray all the time. He was always telling stories about the two of you. For all his heart and intellect, Rob was a kind man. He opened his home and wallet to anyone who asked. I think many of us know that."

Speaking from the center of the three guitars on each side of Buck's casket, sound technician Joe Boyd recalled the first time he met the 10,000 Maniacs.

While conducting a sound check, he found the last guitarist to do the check had brought his own effects box. The sounds Rob Buck created during the evening's concert struck the technician, who said Buck was the first band member he knew deeply.

Picking up one of the guitars, Boyd summarized several conversations with Buck.

"I used to get so many compliments for the sound, but it really came down to this man. When we used to lose our way, I would tell Rob, 'Let's come back to this guitar. Let's go

back to what the sound really was. This is where it came from.'" Boyd said with the guitar in his hand. "And by this time in 1988, 1989, 1990, Rob had hundreds of guitars. It's so bizarre. Thank you for letting me hold your guitar Rob. But I'll let you play it."

While the band may miss a guitar player, its members said they will miss a great person.

"So, when we leave this place, we'll recognize the sun still shines, that the stars have not fallen from the sky, but we'll know this earth is a little less beautiful and that we're all a little poorer because he's gone," Drew said. "But then we'll also realize, in a way, we are richer men, richer in spirit, more humble and more loving, for having known him."