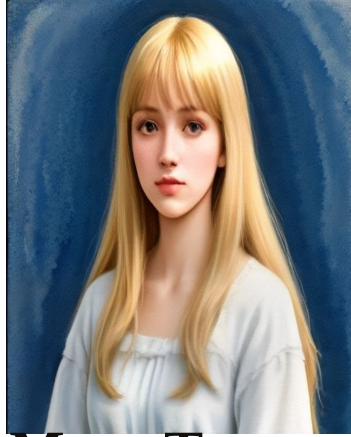




## Mary Travers

*November 9, 1936 - September 16, 2009*

Danbury, Connecticut

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Mary Travers, contralto of the folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary and a Greenwich Village voice of the 1960s folk revival, died of complications from leukemia treatment in Danbury, Connecticut, on September 16, 2009. She was seventy-two. Louisville birth, New York Village apprenticeship, and a run of harmony hits that carried civil-rights and antiwar songs onto AM radio had already made the long blonde hair and clear middle voice a national emblem of earnest protest set to guitar.

Born Mary Allin Travers in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 9, 1936, she grew up into the Village scene and joined Peter Yarrow and Noel Paul Stookey in a group that sold millions while platforming songs by Dylan, Seeger, and others. "If I Had a Hammer," "Blowin' in the Wind," "Puff, the Magic Dragon," and "Leaving on a Jet Plane" turned living-room folk into mainstream American memory. Solo albums and reunion tours followed; activism never fully left the set list.

Leukemia and a bone-marrow transplant battle marked her last years. Danbury's hospital ending closed a public life that had begun in coffeehouses and peaked in stadiums that still wanted three-part hope. Later listeners who meet the songs on playlists still hear a Village living room inside the stereo.

She died in Danbury on September 16, 2009. The trio's catalog remains the gentler, stubborn soundtrack.

Travers's gift was clarity - a voice that made protest sound neighborly without making it small, and harmony that made courage shareable. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 16 remembers the woman in the middle of American folk's most famous harmony.

## Services

Died in Danbury, Connecticut, September 16, 2009, of complications related to leukemia treatment. Folk singer; member of Peter, Paul and Mary.

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