Shortly after his birth, John’s family moved to Wausau where he attended public school and graduated from Wausau High School in 1950. He then went to Williams College in Williamstown, MA, receiving a degree in Physics in 1954. On September 3, 1954, he and “the love of his life,” Judy Croy, began a marriage of 59 years. They were blessed with two daughters, Anne and Sally. After serving two years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, John continued his schooling at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning his MBA. In 1959, the Stevens’ moved to Wausau where John worked as an industrial engineer with Wausau Paper Mills. He later pursued a career with Scott Williams Appraisal Company as a commercial and industrial real estate appraiser - a job he truly enjoyed. John retired in 1995.

John and Judy shared a deep love of classical music, and their home was often filled with singing, piano playing, and listening to their extensive collection of classical music. They enjoyed traveling in the U.S. and Europe, and all their trips were planned around classical music concerts and opera. They especially loved hearing their daughter, Sally, perform opera in Germany.

John and Judy became involved with the Wausau Conservatory of Music when it first opened its doors in 1981, but especially when it moved into its present home at 404 Seymour Street. They both served terms on the board of directors. John was involved on the finance committee for many years; Judy designed the landscaping for the new addition; and they both enjoyed keeping the planting beds weeded in the summer. They regularly attended the faculty recitals together, and were so proud that Wausau had such a gem in the community.

John died on July 19, 2012, and in his memory, Judy, Anne, and Sally established this music scholarship fund for deserving voice or piano students.

The Wausau Conservatory of Music provides exceptional education in music and performance, which enriches and improves the musical life of its students and the community. The John & Judy Stevens Music Scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving voice or piano student through the Wausau Conservatory of Music scholarship process. Questions or requests for further information can be directed to the Wausau Conservatory of Music executive director at 715-845-6279.

This endowment fund is administered within the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin.