



Robert C. Jones

June 4, 1915 - September 9, 2016

Robert C. Jones was an outstanding performer, playing the trombone, starting in high school. He won first place in the national solo contest in his junior year. In 1933, his senior year, he not only won first place, but was chosen to play at a special concert at Northwestern University for an audience of 14,000.

Robert traveled with jazz bands and even played with Stan Kenton's Jazz Orchestra in Chicago for five weeks. He played in the Grant Park Band in Chicago and with Leonard Smith in the Detroit Concert Band. He played with the WGN Orchestra (radio) in Chicago and with the Ford Sunday Evening Hour in Detroit. His true love was playing with symphony orchestras. Jones played principal trombone with the Chicago Civic Orchestra from 1932-1937, and the Kansas City Symphony from 1937-1943. He was principal trombone for the Detroit Symphony from 1943-1949 and was chosen by Life Magazine for their December 10, 1945 issue as principal trombonist for an all country all-star symphony. During his career he played for most of the famous conductors, from Igor Stravinsky and Fritz Reiner, to Leonard Bernstein.

Jones played all over the Detroit area, for the Fisher Theater, the Buick Show, and in shows by Carol Burnett and Jerry Lewis, just to mention a few. After the orchestra folded, Jones continued to perform, but also became a full time teacher of brass instruments. He was on the staff at Wayne State, Bowling Green University, Catholic Central, Brother Rice, and Cranbrook. He taught at Larry Teal's Studio in Detroit and at Royal Music in Royal Oak from 1950-2003. Jones had hundreds of students over the years and many went on to

play with symphonies, bands, and professional groups across the country. It was Robert's love of music, whether it was playing, teaching, or listening, that brought him to his 101st birthday.

Predeceased by his devoted wife of 56 years, Norma (Neil). Survived by his daughters, Barbara Jones, Beverly (Robert) Garcia and Sheila Jones; grandchildren, Elena Garcia (Jeff Ferreri) and Kurt (Linda) Garcia; and great-grandsons, Maximo, Xavier and Nicolas Garcia.

Memorial Service Monday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 26998 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48067.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, 4370 Tujunga Ave., Suite 330, Studio City, CA 91604 or www.mhopus.org. The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation keeps music alive in our schools by donating musical instruments to under-funded music programs, giving youngsters the many benefits of music education, helping them to be better students and inspiring creativity and expression through playing music.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **19**. 7:00 PM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
26998 Woodward Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall

MK

“ Bob Jones was my trombone teacher at Royal Music in Royal Oak from 1967-1974, when I was in elementary school through high school. He was an amazing, talented teacher, and I learned so much from him, not just about music, but also about the psychology of performing. Thanks to his teaching, I became a Performance major at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where I met my wife, a French horn major. We have now been very happily married for 45 years. I often remember various trombone lessons with Bob, and what a great role model he was. I'm thankful that he was able to live such a long and happy life. — Mark Kearns, Royal Oak Dondero High School Class of 1974.

Mark Kearns - July 18, 2024 at 07:32 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert C. Jones.



September 16, 2016 at 03:55 PM

VS

“ My family was neighbors with the Jones family for years. I remember Norma's antiques and seeing her at Cranbrook. Bob's students could be heard practicing their instruments. Bob and Norma were great friends of my parents and were both greatly admired. My condolences to the family on the loss of their father, but what a wonderful life lived!

Vinnie Sutherland - September 14, 2016 at 07:28 AM

MD

“ *My condolences to the family. Recall pleasant memories you shared with your loved one. May you draw close to God in prayer and he will sustain you.-Psalms 55:22*

Ms. Dee - September 13, 2016 at 06:25 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Barbara Jones - September 12, 2016 at 09:38 PM

FM

“ *It's an honor that Robert's family chose to support our work in memory of such an outstanding musician and wonderful man. It's possible that he even played with my dad once upon a time. We wish his family the best, and send our thanks on behalf of the kids who will get to play music through your donations - a fitting legacy. Felice Mancini, The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation*

Felice Mancini - September 11, 2016 at 05:34 PM

GH

“ *my prayers are with you .and your family Sheila*



geraldine Hamilton - September 10, 2016 at 07:43 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bev Garcia - September 10, 2016 at 12:12 AM

ML

The gentleman in the wheelchair in the center front row is Bob Jones, 100 yrs. old

Matthew Litwaitis - May 22, 2025 at 06:05 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



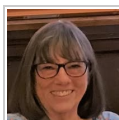
Bev Garcia - September 09, 2016 at 11:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bev Garcia - September 09, 2016 at 11:43 PM



Dad rode a mile a day up until he was over 100 yrs old.

Bev Garcia - September 09, 2016 at 11:44 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bev Garcia - September 09, 2016 at 11:42 PM

ML

I sent the horn he's holding in his lap (which had originally belonged to him), and sent it to him back in the 1980s.

Matthew Litwaitis - May 22, 2025 at 02:19 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bev Garcia - September 09, 2016 at 11:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bev Garcia - September 09, 2016 at 11:38 PM



Bob was awarded the first Royal Oak Community Arts Award for distinguished achievement in the arts days after his 100th birthday.

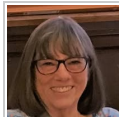
Bev Garcia - September 09, 2016 at 11:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - September 09, 2016 at 05:05 PM



Bob and Norma were devoted to each other. They ran an antique business together while Bob taught lessons and Norma worked at Cranbrook House.

Bev Garcia - September 09, 2016 at 10:00 PM

BS

In the course of a lifetime one meets only a few people outside of ones family who you just know are "kindred spirits" 27 years ago Bob and Norma became our friends. They were ,both, extraordinarily intelligent, progressive, talented and fun loving people. We will always remember their kindness to us when we really needed it. Tonight we listen to some cool Chicago jazz and toast them both. Barry Shulman, Bill Krout

barry Shulman - September 11, 2016 at 05:05 PM