Philip Jones

Biography

Philip Jones, trumpet artist and founder of the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble (PJBE) died on January 17, 2000, at the age of 71. Jones was principal trumpet of six London orchestras during his career. In 1951, he formed the PJBE, which was initially a quartet. The world-renowned ensemble grew to 10 members by 1970 and released 50 recordings. Jones achieved his goal of gaining the same recognition for brass soloists and ensembles that had previously been enjoyed by more traditional solo instruments such as the piano and violin.

Jones was born into a family of trumpeters on March 12, 1928, in Bath, England, and was a scholarship student at the Royal College of Music. His orchestral years included appointments with the Royal Philharmonic (1956-60), Philharmonia (1960-64), London Philharmonic (1964-65), New Philharmonia (1965-67), and BBC Symphony Orchestra (1960-71).

In 1986, after accidentally driving his car over his trumpet case, Jones made the decision to retire. He continued to teach, accepting a position at Trinity College of Music, where he worked until 1994. He also served as chairman of the musicians' charity fund in 1995, having worked for the fund throughout his retirement.

Jones was awarded an Order of the British Empire in 1977 and the Commander of the Order of British Empire in 1986. He is survived by his wife, Ursula Strebi.

Sources: AP, London Guardian, London Times

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