

OUT OF THE PAST ... EDWARD LIVINGSTON

Sourced from Bio and Obituary

Edward Allen Livingston (1935-2012) was a professional tubist and music educator. Ed graduated from Godwin Heights High School in Wyoming, Michigan, and his first professional gig was when he subbed as solo tubist with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus at the age of 17.

Ed received his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Tuba Performance and Music Education degrees from Western Michigan University. From 1959 to 1962 he served as tuba soloist with the United States Army Field Band in Fort Meade, MD. He then taught the junior high band in Godwin Heights Public Schools. He received a Fulbright Scholarship, and from 1965 to 1967, he studied tuba and instrument design at London's Royal College of Music, receiving the American equivalent of a masters and a doctorate degree. While there, Ed studied conducting with Leonard Bernstein, performed with the leading European bands and orchestras, and was selected to solo for the Queen of England, performing the Richard Strauss E-flat Horn Concerto. His tuba design features are still evident in many European instruments, and were the direct result of his many years as performer and teacher.

Over the years, Ed enjoyed playing his tuba professionally in London and the United States, including New York City's Radio City Music Hall and the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus. As a tuba soloist and music educator, throughout his career Ed was a sought after clinician representing leading instrument manufacturing companies.

In 1968, Ed became the first Tuba/Euphonium professor at Illinois State University, where he also served as Director of Bands (1977-1984), founded the Big Red Marching



Machine (the world's largest college marching band at the time), and established the State of Illinois High School Invitational Marching Band Championship, which continues today as the premier state marching band competition. After his retirement from ISU, Ed continued teaching and mentoring tuba and euphonium students. Today, Ed's students can be found performing in the military bands and professional orchestras, and teaching in public schools and universities around the world. As tuba soloist, he performed under the batons of Leonard Bernstein, Sir Adrian Boult, Merle Evans, Paul LaValle, and Arthur Fiedler and was a performer in numerous Broadway shows, studio recordings, and chamber brass groups.

"Ed Livingston never sought the spotlight for himself, but pushed his students forward and gave all of us the most precious commodity of all: the gifts of his time and support from the start. All of us are STILL reaping the benefits of that gift." ~Marty Erickson

