



Obituary

Bill Nemoyten

Bill Nemoyten was an extraordinary person who lived a long, creative life. He was born in 1928, growing up in Cleveland, Ohio to Jewish immigrant parents during the Great Depression and WWII. At age 12, he was loaned an old, dented trombone at his junior high school and so began a lifelong passion for the trombone, music, and the arts. He started playing trombone professionally while in high school, later doubling on trumpet. After retirement he played in many community bands, orchestras, big bands, and brass ensembles. He was the founding conductor of the Peninsula Pops Orchestra.

After graduating from Western Reserve University, Bill started out as a music teacher and high school band director, later moving into Arts Administration where he managed large arts organizations in Ohio, Illinois, and ending up in the San Francisco Bay Area along with his wife and 4 children. He actually went back to teaching at age 60 and continued until retirement.

Always looking for new ways to inspire a love of music, he developed *The Hornman Show*. He played 15 horns of all shapes and sizes, as he educated and entertained people of all ages in schools, libraries, retirement homes and with various bands and orchestras around the country. Between shows and travel, he played in many community bands, orchestras, big bands, and brass ensembles, and was the founding conductor of the Peninsula Pops Orchestra.

In his later years, Bill wrote *[It All Started with a Trombone: The Hornman Memoirs](#)*, stories about his life adventures from being a soda jerk as a kid to finding out at age 62 that his father wasn't really his father. He then wrote a historical novel, *[The Shoemaker's Dream: A Jewish American Immigrant Story](#)*, based on the actual story of how his mother's family came to the U.S. and made a life here for what is now hundreds of family members of 4 generations.

He is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandson. And he will be missed, cherished, and remembered by his many cousins, friends, former students, colleagues, artists, musicians, and all of his Hornman Show audiences.

For much more information, photos, videos, and links to Bill's books, please visit billnemoyten.com