

FRED MILLS
1935 – 2009

The former Canadian Brass trumpeter, Fred Mills, was born in Guelph in 1935 and graduated from GCVI in 1953. During his years here, this talented musician received many Kiwanis music festival awards in Guelph, Toronto, London and Owen Sound.

Fred's brother, J.R. Mills, a pianist, was a strong influence on Fred's early development as a musician. His parents supported his pursuit of a musical career, and in his sophomore year at GCVI, he made a serious commitment to study music rather than architecture. This began his career as a musician.

After attending the Juilliard School of Music in New York City, Fred was engaged by maestro Leopold Stokowski as principal trumpet with the Houston Symphony Orchestra in Texas from 1958-1962. For the next six years, he was the principal trumpet with the New York City Opera and an active New York freelance musician, performing in everything from Broadway shows to jingles, recordings with Stravinsky to jazz ballets. In 1969, he returned to Canada and took part in the inaugural years of the National Arts Centre Orchestra. He joined the Canadian Brass in 1972, the only brass quintet in Canada. This began his 24-year career with the popular ensemble, combining musicianship with humour. Together, they played over 3500 concerts all around the world and made over 40 recordings. In addition to playing, Fred contributed more than 50 arrangements and transcriptions to the repertoire. He is currently Professor of Trumpet and Brass Chamber Music at the University of Georgia and is still enjoying his musical career. Fred Mills has won the respect and awe of all the people who have heard him play. He has travelled the world, performing in all the major concert halls of Europe, the Far East and South and North America. Fred Mills has accomplished much in communicating his art as a performer and teacher and has never regretted his decision to follow his dreams.

Jennifer Lee
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