

# BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Fred Radke is a trumpeter supreme, big-band conductor, musical clinician and educator, recording artist, composer and arranger, and music consultant and producer. In his sixteenth year as the Seattle Four Seasons Olympic Hotel's Musical Director, and house big-band leader, starring singing artist Gina Funes, Fred and Gina have captivated hordes of big-band music fans and audiences throughout the Pacific Northwest and Canada, and in glamorous ballrooms across the continent. Fred has made six tours to the Far East and has appeared in leading hotel ballrooms and night clubs throughout the United States and Canada.

## ξMUSICAL BACKGROUNDξ

Born in Oakland, California, Fred started playing his trumpet professionally at fifteen. By the time he was eighteen, he had not only led a major steamship line's band during many criss-crossings of the Pacific, but had worked with Marlene Dietrich (with Burt Bacharach conducting) and Johnny Mathis. He furthered his education by attending the College of San Mateo and was featured as guest trumpet soloist and musical director for "The Lancers".

Radke's career includes touring with the famous Harry James Orchestra as lead trumpet. He has also played lead trumpet for the Glenn Miller Orchestra, led by Ray McKinley, and appeared in the same role with Leslie Uggams, The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Johnny Ray, Phil Harris, The Modernaires, Jack Jones, The Pied Pipers, Earl Grant, The Lennon Sisters, The King Family, Dennis Day, Connie Stevens, Pat Boone, Edie Adams, Anita O'Day, Rich Little, Art Lund, Ella Fitzgerald, Connie Haines and Mel Torme. The Seattle Symphony has featured him as guest soloist.

Fred has recorded with Harry James, Gina Funes, and his own 15 piece band, and has appeared on the CBS, NBC, ABC and CBC television networks. Also, he has performed for such heads of state as President Richard M. Nixon, President Ronald Reagan, President George Bush, and Olaf, King of Norway. He produced and appeared in shows starring Frank Sinatra Jr., Giselle McKenzie, The Modernaires, Dennis Day, Frankie Lane, Kay Starr, Helen Forrest, Connie Stevens, Rich Little and Gina Funes. In addition, Fred was musical director for television shows starring Frankie Lane, Helen Forrest, The Modernaires and Kay Starr.

## Additional Musical Productions

Over the last twenty years, Radke has also produced shows for many conventions at major hotels throughout the United States and Canada, providing his own popular big band. For one and a half years he produced the popular "Let's Dance" live radio show on Friday nights for Seattle radio station KIXI, whose theme is "The Music You Remember."

## **Guest Appearances**

As a full time instructor of Jazz Studies at North Seattle Community College during the past twenty-five years, and as an authority on big-band history, Radke has toured extensively as guest trumpet soloist and lecturer on the art of playing the trumpet and the history of jazz. The Getzen Company, of Elkhorn, Wisconsin, makes his trumpets and has included him as one of their featured artists in music trade shows.

## **Current Activities**

Over the past twenty-five years, Fred Radke has been a driving force in keeping jazz alive in the Pacific Northwest. As mentioned above, he is the Musical Director and house band leader for the Four Seasons Olympic Hotel, the Four Seasons Maui Resort Hotel and The Four Seasons Hotel in New York. He has also provided the entertainment for Four Seasons Hotels in Washington D.C., Philadelphia and the Ritz Carlton in Chicago. He is a member of the College Foundation Board, which raises funds for college scholarships. Fred was recently the recipient of the Honored 1988 National Music Expression "Public Service Award" by the Evergreen Safety Council. In 1994, The Director of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, bestowed the title of "Honorary Chief Petty Officer Musician" for providing countless hours of entertainment and service to the United States Navy.

In early 1989, Fred Radke was asked by the Harry James Estate and Columbia Artists to lead the Harry James Orchestra for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Harry James, where they performed seventy-one concerts throughout the United States, and in 1990, led the orchestra for Vic Damone and Diahann Carroll on a coast to coast tour. In 1993 the band was featured on the Crown Odyssey for their yearly Big Band cruise. In 1994-95, Fred will be leading a Tribute to Harry James in a battle of the Big Bands on an International Tour.

In 1997, The Fred Radke Orchestra will be the headliner act for the final cruise of the Rotterdam for Holland American Lines. In 1998 Fred will be leader of the Harry James Orchestra for a coast to coast tour where they will perform 75 concerts for Columbia Artists, and a cruise on the ship Amsterdam from the United States to Japan.

Fred is also a member of the American Society of Composers, Arrangers, and Publishers (ASCAP). While busy with foregoing activities, he is an avid outdoorsman. Daily jogging helps him keep in shape. Besides being a fly fishing enthusiast, Fred, along with his wife, Gina, enjoy downhill skiing in both North America and Europe. He has lived in the Seattle area since 1966 and loves the Pacific Northwest and Canada.