

David Helfrich

French Horn

Alexander

I was born in Allentown, Pa. and moved to Somerville, N.J. when I was ten .. At the age of twelve I began lessons on the trumpet because they needed an Eb alto player I switched . After graduating from high school and failing to get admitted to Julliard (I hadn't taken a lesson and didn't even know how to use the Bb side of the Sansone French horn I had purchased)

I started taking lessons from Louis Ricci (a member of the New York Philharmonic). After four years of lessons I received a scholarship from Eastman where I graduated with a Performer's Certificate in French Horn as well as a Bachelor's Degree. While at Eastman I married and in the ensuing years eight children were produced from this union. The children have produced nineteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

After Eastman and three year stint in the Air Force as a navigator on an aerial refueling tanker I moved to Florida. We were freezing to death in Montana. We moved here in 1959 and I have still not thawed out yet.

I played professionally with both the Indianapolis Symphony and the Buffalo Philharmonic. Later, I played in the Tampa Philharmonic and the St.Petersburg Symphony as well as anything else that came along. Currently I play in a brass quintet called The Florida Fanfare Brass.and a woodwind quintet as well as The MOB(Men of Brass) and the Richey Symphony.

Besides gardening and fixing up my house I also find time to play tennis three days a week and ride my bicycle three days.