

MAC FRAMPTON

BIOGRAPHY

Billboard Magazine has called him “an immensely talented pianist, at home in a wide variety of musical settings.” The Atlanta Constitution exclaimed: “How one man can bring the rafters down in Symphony Hall as if a full orchestra were playing is a feat in itself. It’s consummate musicianship. Electrifying!” He’s been guest soloist with such orchestras as the Boston Pops, Mantovani, Cincinnati, Atlanta, and St. Louis. Merv Griffin called him “Dynamite!” He’s shared the stage with the likes of Bill Cosby, Glen Campbell, The Fifth Dimension, and Victor Borge. Yet, in thirty years as an entertainer, performing over 3000 concerts worldwide, **Mac Frampton** has remained committed to a fundamental belief: music is a powerful form of communication, often able to speak more deeply than words.

“I can’t recall a time in my life when I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do,” says Mac. A look at his early years confirms that fact. Born the son of a Presbyterian minister, he had lots of chances to test the piano playing waters: entertaining for church suppers, subbing for Sunday services, improvising “Here Comes The Bride” for a home wedding, playing the Sunday School hymns on creaky old uprights. Quite an exciting lifestyle for a boy of eight!

Today, Mac Frampton carries his musical electricity to audiences around the world. But through it all the memories of childhood linger as some of the sweetest. “I remember my first combo. Two clarinets, trombone, and piano! I wrote the arrangements and we played at a church men’s supper. My six-year-old sister came on stage to sing the finale, and when we finished the audience started throwing things at us. It made us nervous until we realized they were throwing money!” Suddenly his piano lessons were invested with a renewed dedication. After high school Mac continued his musical education at Erskine College in his home state of South Carolina and at the Cincinnati Conservatory, where he received his master’s and doctoral degrees. Recognition with a special medal in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition followed, establishing him as a classical pianist with legitimate credentials.

It was at the Cliburn Competition that Mac began to seriously consider an alternative to a classical career. “I was at a farewell reception and some of the contestants who knew I improvised pop and jazz asked me to play a few tunes. I had just started when Van Cliburn himself walked in. He told me he was impressed with my arrangements and that I should consider doing them professionally. With that kind of endorsement, I had to think seriously about going into the pop arena. I went home and started booking myself with a backup group and found I really loved it.”

The style Mac developed during the early years of pop concerts has proved durable. Based on classical technique but drawing liberally from jazz and rock idioms, the Mac Frampton sound continues to build a wider audience with each of the concerts he and his group have performed for community, college, and convention audiences. His success has spawned over twenty record albums, a motion picture soundtrack, and unprecedented numbers of return engagements. In the past several years, Mac has also turned his attention to the creation of musical revues. His efforts have brought to the stage original productions of the music of George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Henry Mancini. He is the founder of the **Hollywood Hills Orchestra**, a fifteen-member ensemble that specializes in great film music. Mac’s most recent production is *Pop Go The Classics!*, showcasing contemporary interpretations of great classical music and featuring a six-piece ensemble.

For booking information please contact
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