

# Charles Colin

Biography

## Biography

*Charles Colin, trumpet educator and publisher, passed away February 7 in Port Chester, New York, at age 86. Colin was born on September 22, 1913 and raised in Salem, Massachusetts. He began playing the trumpet at age 11. His natural talent, nurtured by the best teachers in the Boston area, led him to the New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Louis J. Kloepfel.*

*In the mid-1930s, he launched his career in New York and performed with the WMCA [Radio] Orchestra, and Charlie Barnet Band. After touring, Colin was convinced that life on the road was not for him, and he settled in New York City and opened a teaching studio. After experiencing the rigors of performing professionally, Colin devised a series of exercises and techniques that became the basis for two of his brass method books Charles Colin's Lip Flexibility Studies and 100 Original Warmups. These books, and many of the other editions issued by Charles Colin Music Publishing (founded 1941), have been mainstays in many trumpeters' and other musicians' libraries for over 50 years. Early in his career, his reputation as a teacher grew very rapidly, and he often had a waiting list of hundreds of students.*

*In 1973, Colin founded the New York Brass Conference for Scholarships, a nonprofit organization that presents an annual three-day festival that features every genre of brass music from classical to jazz. Young musicians perform side-by-side with established classical and jazz performers, creating an inspirational experience for the musicians and audience alike. The main purpose for the conference is to raise funds and draw attention to the need for scholarships for young musicians. The annual NYBC Journal is an invaluable chronicle of the conferences and the many musicians appearing in its pages. The upcoming 28th annual conference will be held from March 31 to April 2 at The Lighthouse in New York City. The event will be highlighted with a memorial concert by the Empire Brass Quintet, a group that performed at the first NYBC.*

*Colin is survived by Irene, his wife of 59 years; sons Allan and Charles, who operate the publishing business; daughters Lois and Karen; and three grandchildren.*

*For further information see: Andre M. Smith, "The Life of Charles Colin and the Silver Jubilee of the New York Brass Conference, 1973-1997," ITG Journal, February, 1997, pp. 4-37.*

---

*Source: Elizabeth Colin*

*From:  
International Trumpet Guild  
Lifetime Achievement members*