Leon Rapier

To generations of trumpeters Leon Rapier was teacher, mentor, and more. His influence has been felt by trumpeters beyond just the midsouth US, but certainly nationally throughout the USA, and in fact internationally as well.

From 1954 until his untimely death in 1988, Rapier was Principal Trumpet of the Louisville Orchestra, Principal Trumpet of the Louisville Bach Society, and Professor of Trumpet at the University of Louisville. He had previously held positions at Louisiana State University and the New Orleans Philharmonic. For many years, Rapier taught at Interlochen National Music Camp.

His recorded works include numerous Louisville Orchestra First Edition Recordingsnew works for orchestra which introduced the public (including students in music schools and conservatories) to new music. His recorded solo works include: Bloch Proclamation, Hovhaness Avak the Healer, Chou Wen-Chung Soliloquy of a Bhiksuni, and the Addison Concerto. A partial list of his students include: C.J. Alexius, John Aley, Jerry Amend, Pat Badger, Fred Baker, Clifford Blackburn, Dallas Blair, Stacy Blair, Dan Bowles, Richard Burkart, Barbara Butler, Charlie Butler, Norbert Carnovale, Randell Croley, Jim Debth, Mike Doyle, Tom Fairlie, Carl Fontana, Reinhold Friedrich, Earl Gaar, Gerry Gerbrecht, John Gerbrecht, Tom Giles, Pat Harbison, Keith Jones, Gene King, Richard Lehman, Everett McCurdy, Pat McGuffey, Ariel Numhauser, Natalo Paella, Steve Plank, Russ Plylar, Paul Randall, David Rogers, John Rommel, Bernard Sanchez, Mike Santorelli, David Scott, Richard Stoelzel, Byron Strippling, Arthur Swift, John Tardy, Bob Tucci, Michael Tunnell, Allen Vizzutti, Billy Wick, Herman Vincent, and David Zuercher.

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