

Harold Brasch

Biography

Harold T. Brasch, a nationally acclaimed euphonium soloist began his music career in a Boy Scout Troop. On his 14th birthday, he was given a \$50.00 student-model trumpet with ten free lessons and attended San Pedro (California) High School. A year later, Harold switched to euphonium on the advice of his bandmaster E. A. Jarvis. While in high school, he appeared as soloist with numerous college bands in concert, and with the Long Beach Municipal Band, Long Beach, CA, under the direction the late Dr. Herbert L. Clarke. In 1936, he was admitted into the U. S. Navy Band, Washington, D.C. on the strength of a letter from Dr. Clarke. Brasch's tenure of 20 years in the U.S. Navy Band, his technical mastery of the euphonium, the beauty of his tone and superb musical craftsmanship, places him indisputably among the greatest euphonium players of all time. Harold T. Brasch became the acclaimed "Mr. Euphonium" with his many performances on every major radio network in the U.S.A; as featured soloist on the Navy Band Concert Tours and at the National Concert Band of America for the Canadian National Exhibition. He appeared as guest soloist with high school bands, college/university bands, civic bands, Salvation Army Bands, and was the euphonium soloist/teacher at the International Music Camp from 1960 - 1984.

Brasch became one of the finest performers on the euphonium, which earned personal endorsements for his work as a soloist: Herbert Clarke (conductor Long Beach Municipal Band) " ... unexcelled on his instrument." Edwin Franko Goldman (conductor of Goldman Band) " ... a great artist and I had him in my band." Arthur Lehman (euphonium soloist of the U.S. Marine Band) " ... as a soloist, Brasch doesn't make mistakes." Oscar Short (solo cornet, Sousa's Band, U.S. Navy Band) " ... finest fingers in the business." Simone Mantia (solo euphonium, Sousa Band, Pryor Band, World's Fair Band, Band of America, Metropolitan Opera) " ... the tone I wish I had." George Polce (solo euphonium Armco Band) " ... an artist and a musician." Commander C. Brendler (conductor, U.S. Navy Band) " ... the world's finest." E. Whitefield (euphonium soloist, U.S. Air Force Band) " ... sure taught me a great deal." Colonel William Santelmann (conductor of U.S. Marine Band) " ... best in the service." Dr. Merton Utgaard (camp director of International Music Camp) " ... he has truly earned the title of Mr. Euphonium."