Biography

Anton Meinl

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Born in Graslitz in 1922, Anton Meinl attended school there from 1928 to 1936, following which, he took a 2 year course at the Technical State School for Musical Instrument Making. After a 3 year apprenticeship, his studies were interrupted by induction to the military service in 1941.

With no opportunity to return to his home in Graslitz, and not knowing what had become of his parents, Mr. Meinl settled in Austria following his release as a prisoner of war in 1945. He worked there for 2 years as an instrument maker and repairman, until he located his father, who had re-established his brass making business in the town of Geretsried. Joining his father's enterprise in 1947, Anton Meinl continued his studies at night courses and passed the examination for his master's degree in 1952.

A highly skilled craftsman and excellent teacher, Anton Meinl has contributed much to the development and improvement of tubas. He was the first to use the hydraulic system to bend tubing for Tubas and the first to use steel ball action on rotary valve Tubas. His cutting patterns became famous for its projection and core. The configuration of slide tubings of the Meinl-Weston Tubas has contributed significantly to the efficiency and response of the instruments.

Anton Meinl collaborated closely with the late William Bell, with whom he developed sevaral models in the early 60s, then also Rex Conner and Joe Novotny of the NY Phil, while he worked in Germany with players like Lueghausen and Pröpper, but also kept an open workshop for everybody including Arnold Jacobs or Floyd Cooley and Sam Pilafian.

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