

Robert C. “Bob” Jones

Bob Jones began his professional performing career in Portland, Oregon as leader of his own twelve-piece band at age sixteen. He became the contractor for the Portland Civic Theater summer musical season the following year. He played saxophones, clarinets and flute/piccolo in all types of concerts, shows and dance bands and orchestras, gave classical recitals, performed with the Oregon Symphony and Portland Opera, and Chamber Music Northwest. He was a soloist with the Portland Chamber Orchestra, North Coast Chamber Orchestra, and at the first NW Region World Saxophone Congress. The Oregon Saxophone Quartet, of which Bob was founder, leader and soprano saxophonist, was invited by Eugene Rousseau to be artist(s) in residence at his Summer Saxophone Camp at Shell Lake, WI, and to perform both classical and jazz concerts.

In addition to giving classical saxophone recitals, Bob appeared as soloist with orchestras and concert bands performing Glazounov, Ibert, Rivier, Schuller, Villa-Lobos, Badings, Bilik and others. His commercial experience includes dozens of arena and pit shows for national touring companies and acts, including Broadway, ballet, ice shows, circuses and popular stars (Johnny Mathis, Sonny & Cher, The Temptations, Wayne Newton, Nancy Wilson, Bob Hope, Ed Ames, Lou Rawls, Roy Clark, Della Reese, and many more. Lead alto saxophone gigs with well-known bandleaders included Mel Torme, Neal Hefti, Les Elgart, Nelson Riddle, Doc Severinson.

For fifteen years Bob maintained a large private teaching studio often reaching 70 pupils per week. He was adjunct faculty in woodwinds at Portland State University, Lewis & Clark College and Reed College. His students have won scholarships to prestigious colleges and universities and had professional careers.

While continuing to play and teach, his colleagues elected him as the youngest CEO of the Portland local musicians’ union (1968), the youngest elected to the American Federation of Musicians International Executive Board (1978) as its only active career musician at the time.

In 1980, Bob gave up his instruments and resigned his local and International union offices. His economics degree, musical experience, and labor relations expertise had prepared him for a new career in symphony orchestra and opera management. (see [About Chesapeake International Arts](#))

In 2012, Bob and his wife, Susan, retired to their Eastern Shore (MD) second home full-time. After a 32-year hiatus from playing his instruments, Bob was inspired by Brazilian ragtime, known as choro music, to “reboot” himself as a musician. He and Susan, a clarinetist among her many other talents, created the Brazilian choro ensemble, [Zéfiro](#). They also offer a virtuosic program of light classical and novelty pieces with informative and sometimes humorous narrative as The ClariNUTS. Both ensembles, as well as Bob and Susan individually, perform for private and public events in a variety of venues, around the Mid-Shore region of Maryland.

For additional information about Bob's non-performing arts management career see <https://www.chesapeakearts.com/about-us/>