

GEORGE ROUMANIS

Trenton Central High School over many years produced graduates who have made an impact on our world in so many different ways. Doctors, diplomats, brave military veterans, lawyers, etc. In the world of music, one of the 939 graduates of the class of 1947 was composer/arranger and Sport Nite Red Band leader one George Roumanis (b. 11 February 1929, Trenton, N.J.)

George was a member of Troop 12 B.S.A. and attended Junior High School #3 before moving on to THS. While at THS, he not only distinguished himself as an outstanding musician, but he also was a standout varsity track and field athlete excelling in both discus and shotput.

His love of music and in becoming a jazz bassist began early in life and at the age of 16, he began to launch his career as an arranger. Within three years after graduating from THS, he was already arranging for likes of Benny Goodman, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, Count Basie, Glenn Miller's "Airmen of Note" and the Hollywood Bowl Symphony Orchestra. By the time George was 27 years old, he became a recording artist in his own right.

At age 30, George formed his own commercial production company for Madison Avenue agencies. George composed, arranged and produced numerous well-known commercials (jingles) featuring Louis Armstrong, Peggy Lee, Stan Getz, Eartha Kitt, Bobby Vinton, Buddy Greco, Vic Damone and more.

When George turned 36, he moved from New York to Hollywood and quickly established himself as a major television and motion picture force, landing notable TV series such as: *Hawaii Five-O*, *Streets of San Francisco*, *Twilight Zone*, *Star Trek - the Next Generation*, and many others.

At age 40, while writing for Hollywood, George started studying music with 12-tone-row pioneer George Tremblay. During the next 19 years, George developed new harmonic techniques, classical forms and structures, delved into the operatic world sketching out his *Ode to Phaedra Opera*, future concertos and tone poems. The opera subsequently became part of the Oxford University archives.

At age 59, George relocated to Half Moon Bay, Calif., and has been devoting his time to writing serious compositions and working on commissioned pieces for jazz and military orchestras.

George passed away in 2018 at the age of 89.