

Pittsburg State University  
Department of Music  
**TUESDAY AFTERNOON RECITAL**

January 26, 1999  
1:00 p.m.  
McCray Recital Hall

**Guest Lecture**

Benge Trumpet Artist, Ron  
Modell discusses..

*MUSICIANSHIP*



## ABOUT RON MODELL

Born in New York City, November 11, 1934, to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Modell, he attended James Monroe High School in the Bronx. Upon graduation in June 1952 at the age of 17 1/2, Ron embarked on his first major professional engagement as first trumpet for Cornelia Otis Skinner in her one-woman production of "Paris 90" with Nathaniel Shilkert conducting. Returning from an eight month, cross-country tour with that show he was auditioned, and subsequently engaged at age 18 in 1953 to become the principal trumpet with the Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra under H. Arthur Brown. In addition to his contract, he was awarded a four-year full tuition scholarship to the University of Tulsa. In May of 1957 after completing his Bachelor of Music Education degree and four seasons with the orchestra, he returned to New York and a new phase of music, joining the world famous "Machito" Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra at the Paladium.

In 1958, Maestro Vladimir Golschmann, the newly appointed conductor with the Tulsa Philharmonic invited Ron back again to continue his schooling, and once again resume the principal trumpet position. In May 1960 Ron was awarded his MM in performance and was engaged by Maestro Paul Kletzki to become principal with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for the 1960-61 season. Nine seasons with Dallas and six seasons in Tulsa gave him the opportunity to play under such great conductors as Solti, Munch, Ehrling, Monteux, Dorati, Previn and Mancini.

His teacher experience dates back to 1958 when he was instructor at Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg, Kansas, and at the same time with the University of Tulsa. In 1964 he joined the faculty of S.M.U. and almost immediately initiated three new programs for brass, including the brass ensemble, stage band for jazz and a faculty brass quintet. Mr. Modell has long and wide experience in the field of jazz, having spent 18 summers in the Catskill Mountain area of New York, at one of the largest resort hotels, playing lead trumpet with the show band. He has appeared in night clubs as lead trumpet for Vic Damone, Tony Bennett, Della Reese, Buddy Greco, Julius LaRosa, Bill Eckstine and many, many others. Dallas area jazz fans were treated to the first appearance of Ron in April of '67, when he performed with his own S.M.U. Stage Band at Moody Coliseum during the "Evening with Stan Getz".

The most distinguished trumpet players from many of the major symphony orchestras in the country are among the teachers he feels most fortunate in having studied with. Those teachers include James Smith, Sol Lubalin, Frank Venezia and Harry Glantz from the New York Philharmonic. Louis Davidson, 1st Trumpet, Cleveland Orchestra; Milton Davidson, 1st Trumpet, Dallas Symphony; Joseph Rescigno, Metropolitan Opera; Murray Karpilovsky, 1st Trumpet, Pittsburgh Symphony; Roger Fenn, 1st Trumpet, Tulsa Philharmonic and Rafael Mendez, world-renowned soloist.

Ron has a button permanently pinned on the inside of his trumpet case which reads: "Go Home and Practice." His philosophy on playing any music is "Whether it be one note, a scale, or a concerto, it must always be musical and in good taste."

Ron joined the Northern Illinois University faculty in June 1969. As Professor of Trumpet and Director of the NIU Jazz Ensemble he has served as judge, clinician and soloist with the finest high school and college wind ensembles, symphony orchestras and jazz ensembles. During the first 28 years the NIU Jazz Ensemble has performed over 600 concerts for more than 600,000 people at high schools, colleges, correctional institutions, and public concerts. The Jazz Ensemble just completed their 13th recording.

Conducted for George Burns and Bob Newhart.

'94 Recipient of Achievement Award for Jazz Education - Downbeat magazine

'94 Recipient of 1st Illinois Board of Regents Certificate of Merit

'95 Recipient of Illinois Alliance for Arts Education Service Recognition Award

'96 NIU Jazz Ensemble selected by Quincy Jones to perform 50 years of his music at Montreux Jazz Festival, Switzerland, with Jones conducting

'98 World tour with pop star Phil Collins