

MAC FRAMPTON

Biography

Billboard Magazine has called him “an immensely talented pianist, at home in a wide variety of musical settings.” The *Atlanta Constitution* exclaimed: “How one man can bring the rafters down in Symphony Hall as if a full orchestra were playing is a feat in itself. It’s consummate musicianship. Electrifying!” He’s been guest soloist with such orchestras as the Boston Pops, Mantovani, Cincinnati, Atlanta, and St. Louis. Merv Griffin called him “Dynamite!” He’s shared the stage with the likes of Aretha Franklin, Glen Campbell, The Fifth Dimension, and Victor Borge. Yet, in nearly fifty years as an entertainer, performing over 4,000 concerts worldwide, **Mac Frampton** has remained committed to a fundamental belief: music is a powerful form of communication, capable of speaking more deeply than words.

“I can’t recall a time in my life when I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do,” says Mac. A look at his early years makes this clear. Born the son of a Presbyterian pastor and a very musical mother, he had multiple chances to test the musical waters: entertaining for church suppers; subbing on the organ for Sunday services; improvising *Here Comes The Bride* for a home wedding; playing the Sunday School hymns on creaky old uprights. Quite an exciting lifestyle for a boy of eight!

Today, **Mac Frampton** carries his musical electricity to audiences around the world. But through it all the memories of childhood linger as some of the sweetest. “I remember my first combo. Two clarinets, trombone, and piano! I wrote the arrangements and we played at a church men’s supper. My six-year-old sister came on stage to sing the finale, and when we finished the audience started throwing things at us. It made us nervous until we realized they were throwing money!” Not surprisingly, that experience immediately invested his weekly piano lessons with renewed dedication. After high school Mac continued his musical education at Erskine College, in his home state of South Carolina, and at the Cincinnati Conservatory, where he received his master’s and doctoral degrees. Recognition with a special medal in the *Van Cliburn International Piano Competition* followed, establishing him as a classical pianist with legitimate credentials.

It was at the Cliburn Competition that Mac began to seriously consider an alternative to a classical career. “I was at a farewell reception and some of the contestants who knew I improvised pop and jazz asked me to play a few tunes. I had just started when Van walked in. He told me he was impressed with my arrangements and that I should consider doing them professionally. With that kind of endorsement, I had to think seriously about going into the pop arena. I went home and started booking myself with a backup group and found I really loved it.”

The style Mac developed during the early years of pop concerts has proved durable. Based on classical technique but drawing liberally from jazz and rock idioms, the **Mac Frampton** sound continues to build a wider audience with each of the concerts he and his group have performed for community, college, cruise ship, and corporate audiences. His success has spawned over twenty record albums, a motion picture soundtrack, and unprecedented numbers of return engagements. Throughout his career, Mac has also been involved in the creation of musical revues. His efforts have brought to the stage original productions of the music of George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Henry Mancini. He has also created revues, including the music of the Thirties, Forties, Fifties, and most recently, The Seventies. Mac’s most recent production is a tribute to the heroes of 9/11: *Fanfare For The American Hero*.

Mac Frampton is the founder of the **Hollywood Hills Orchestra**, a fifteen-member ensemble that specializes in the performance of great film music. Yet another of his ensembles is **The Three Penny Symphony**, a six-piece group that showcases contemporary interpretations of great classical music in a production entitled *Pop Go The Classics!*

Mac makes his home in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the proud father of two sons, both of whom are involved in the entertainment industry.