



Bronstein Music Profiles: Don Edwards and Rich Welker

Thanks for all of the positive comments about the series of profiles we've been sending to you. This time we turn the spotlight on the two people who own Bronstein Music, Rich Welker and Don Edwards.

If you would like to re-read any of the profiles we've written so far, [click here](#).

A Profile of Don Edwards

Don's musical background is wide and deep. He started playing piano when he was 4, and then took up the trumpet when he was in the 4th grade. By the time he reached middle school, he had added baritone horn to his repertoire. He attended South San Francisco High School where he played in the concert band, the Blue Knights Jazz Band (under the direction of Warren Heckman), and took music theory classes. Don credits the latter with his ability to learn new instruments and new musical styles.



By his senior year, Don had learned to play valve trombone, slide trombone, vibraphone and guitar. In addition to his school music groups, Don played in local rock bands, and played for many of the local clubs, and even a USO tour taking him to Hawaii and Midway Island in the early 70's.

Don served 6 years in the California Army National Guard band and was stationed in Alameda. His primary instrument was baritone horn, and he also played glockenspiel, piano, and bass.

Don's mother bought his first guitar at Bronstein Music in 1966. In 1968, Don started working at the store, doing everything from sales to deliveries of pianos, organs, stereo systems, etc. When Mr. Bronstein retired in 1981, he sold the business to Don and his business partner, Rich Welker. Don completed his A.A. at Skyline College, continues to perform music professionally around the Bay Area, with his church's worship team, and is active in local service organizations, including serving 33 years in the South San Francisco Kiwanis Club.

A Profile of Rich Welker

Rich started playing trumpet in the 5th grade at Serra Vista Elementary School in South San Francisco. He continued to play at Alta Loma Middle School, and then at El Camino High School (under the direction of Ted Marr). Rich also studied piano with his mother, but the trumpet clearly won out.



While in high school, Rich started playing professional level engagements (or "casuals" as musicians refer to them). This excellent training has served him throughout his music career, which has included many performances with local bands, orchestras, big bands, brass quintets, and musical theater productions. From 1974 to 1981, Rich led the "Rich Welker Big Band," a professional music group that included many of the top musicians in the area.

But, music is only part of the story. Rich entered college as an Engineering major (he attended the Northrup Institute of Technology). His interest turned to science and he transferred to the University of San Francisco, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology with an emphasis in Environmental Physiology.

Rich started working at Bronstein Music in 1968. He continued to work at the store while he was in college, and eventually became the store manager. When Mr. Bronstein retired in 1981, he sold the business to Rich and his business partner, Don Edwards. Today, Rich plays trumpet in the College of San Mateo Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Band, as well as other local community and professional ensembles.

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Bronstein Music | 363 Grand Ave. | South San Francisco | CA | 94080