

# Bio: Gragg Guthridge

Started playing professionally in mid-teens in Corpus Christi. In college played bass trombone in Corpus Christi Symphony conducted by a youthful Maurice Peress who exposed us to a variety of composers including Stravinsky, Copland, Ravel, Tchaikovski, and other old Masters. Also played with numerous bands until moving to Dallas after graduating.

A couple of friends in Dallas helped me get started playing with various Dallas groups, including the Fairmont Hotel band directed by Jerry Gray, composer and arranger for Glen Miller. Performers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Lou Rawls, Lana Cantrell, Patti Page, and Frank Gorshin (comedian) entertained those dining in the Fairmont's Venetian Room.

In the 60s and 70s Dallas had several recording studios where we found excellent pay for musicians recording mainly radio and television commercials. Also played in different bands in hotels, country clubs, and to accompany various artists, such as Vikki Carr, Sarah Vaughn, Bob Hope, Charlie Pride, James Brown. Doc Severinson flew a group of us to Baton Rouge to entertain a large party in Pete's Palace celebrating the gubernatorial election of Edwin Edwards. I played a little Dixieland with Al Hirt and Pete Fountain.

Became CPA, left Dallas around 1978 and stopped playing for over 20 years and resumed when I moved to Sun City. Now play in 5 piece band called JUST FRIENDS.