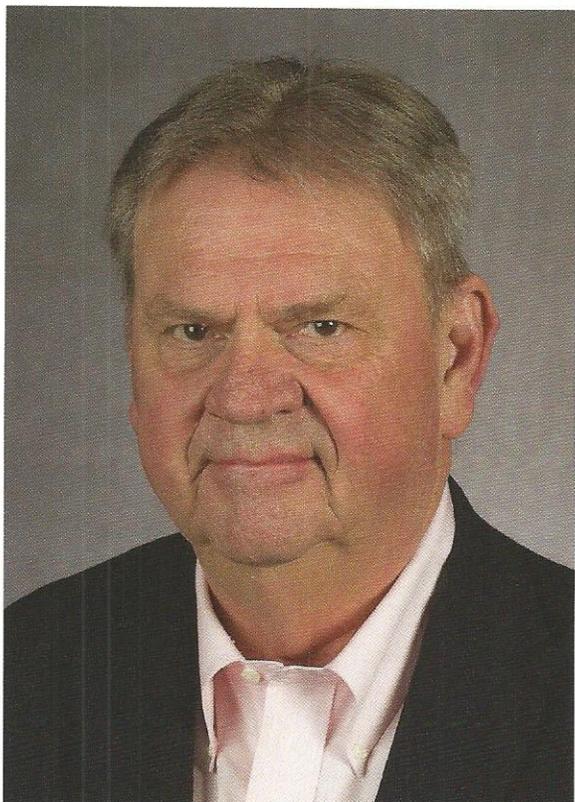


IN MEMORIAM



FLOYD COOLEY (1954–2022)

Floyd Cooley, internationally known tubist and former member of the San Francisco Symphony, passed away on November 25, 2022.

A native of Iowa, Cooley was the son of a tuba player and grew up in a home full of music. He spent one year at the University of Kansas and received a performer's certificate from Indiana University. While at Indiana, he studied with William Bell, Mstislav Rostropovich, Jacob Krachmalnick, and Mark Lifschey. He also studied with Arnold Jacobs from 1968 to 1998.

Cooley then joined the San Francisco Symphony in 1969, at the time the youngest tuba player

in any major orchestra in the United States. Cooley appeared as a clinician and soloist throughout the world, from small settings to Carnegie Hall. He recorded three solo albums: *The Romantic Tuba* on Crystal Records, *A Schumann Fantasy* on Summit Records, and *Friends in Low Places* on Albany Records. No matter the activity, Cooley was praised for his sensitive playing, mellow tone, and singing melodic line. The San Francisco Chronicle wrote "the sheer beauty of tone and technical accuracy were amazing. The effect was operatically vocal."

After his decades-long career with the San Francisco Symphony, Cooley turned



Floyd Cooley performs the Richard Strauss Horn Concerto in E flat at the 2nd National Tuba-Euphonium Symposium-Workshop at the University of North Texas in 1980.

 bit.ly/floydcooleystrauss



Floyd Cooley is interviewed by Michael Grose as part of the Tuba People TV YouTube series. He discusses his first lesson with Arnold Jacobs, how his teaching was influenced by Jacobs, and shares memories of Bud Herseth.

 bit.ly/floydcooleyinterview

exclusively to teaching and joined the DePaul University School of Music in 1992. He dedicated himself to teaching students through his impactful pedagogy, orchestral repertoire classes, and concepts classes, demonstrating an extraordinary level of excellence that produced many highly successful musicians.

Cooley's influence on countless students will be felt in ensembles worldwide for generations.



✍ Editor's Note:

Please look to a future issue of the ITEA Journal for a dedicated tribute to Floyd Cooley.



Andrew Hitz, Kevin Harrison, Daryl Johnson, Pete Link, Mike Roylance, William Russell, and Jerome Stover discuss their memories of Floyd Cooley and celebrate his life and career through the Brass Legacy Project as part of The Brass Junkies series.



bit.ly/celebratingfloydcooley

