



### Alan Robinson

Alan Robinson and his brother, Gale, were an important part of the Los Angeles studios starting in the 1940s. Gale died in 2006 and Alan is now retired. Alan played the memorable horn part in *God Only Knows*.



Alan was five years younger than Gale and started to learn horn in junior high school while Gale was away fighting in World War II. He started playing in the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra at age 13; his first movie credit was *Humoreque* with the youth orchestra. At Los Angeles City College, he studied geology and psychology because, "Music was my life. I knew all about music, so I wanted to learn about other things."

Alan played in the Utah Symphony for three years before returning to Los Angeles to 20th Century Fox, playing second to Alfred Brain and then Vincent DeRosa. From the 1950s into the 1980s, he traveled between Las Vegas and Los Angeles to perform with leading artists such as the Beach Boys, Barbra Streisand, Dizzy Gillespie, Peggy Lee, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, and Earth, Wind, and Fire. His movie credits at 20th Century Fox include *The King and I*, *Carousel*, *Spartacus*, and *The Sound of Music*.

Alan became a house painter and real estate agent during the musicians' strike in 1958, and in the following era of freelancing, he toured with the National Orchestra of Mexico, then in the Los Angeles Philharmonic, finally joining Gale in a tour of the Pittsburgh Symphony in 1964. Back in Los Angeles, Alan played on television series *The Waltons* and *Starsky and Hutch*; movies include *The Muppet Movie*, *Star Trek I*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. His last studio session was for television in the early 1980s.

See Annie Bosler's article on the Robinson Brothers in the February 2007 issue of *The Horn Call*.

### Service Medal of Honor

This honor, instituted in 2012, is for individuals who have made a major contribution in service to the International Horn Society. Any IHS member can submit a nomination; nominations are considered at the next Advisory Council meeting. The AC normally awards a maximum of one Medal of Honor in any year and is not obliged to make any award at all.

### Virginia Thompson (1956-2015)

Virginia Thompson is remembered not only as a beloved teacher, but also for her sense of humor, her kindness and caring, and her service to the IHS, including two terms on the Advisory Council (1995-2002) and a term as president (2000-2002).

Virginia was born in Davenport, Iowa and attended the University of Iowa (BM, DMA) and the University of Arizona (MM). She taught horn at Coe, Cornell, and Grinnell

Colleges and played in several orchestras, including the Orquesta Sinfonica de Xalapa in Veracruz, Mexico and as substitute with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.



For the last 25 years Virginia was Professor of Music at West Virginia University, where she taught horn performance, literature, and pedagogy, was the Director of Graduate Studies

(1996-2000), and was a member of the faculty Laureate Wind Quintet. Known affectionately as Dr. T, she earned multiple Outstanding Teaching and Service awards as well as acknowledgements of Continued Academic Achievement. Virginia had a special interest in new music, commissioning and premiering many new works during her career and collecting some of them on a CD, *Music for Horn*, in 2008. As soloist, recitalist, and clinician, she performed throughout North America, Europe, and Africa.

See the obituary by Jennifer Presar and Heather Poe Roth in the May 2015 issue of *The Horn Call*.



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