

[Long Bio]

Mike Runyan, Harmonica

Mike Runyan says you can take a harmonica anywhere...except the shower.

Runyan was born in San Diego and raised in Denver. He began piano lessons at age six and played trumpet and horn in grade school. He annoyed his siblings by playing his father's harmonica during long trips in the family station wagon. While he was pianist for his high school swing choir, Runyan purchased a chromatic harmonica and learned to play the obbligato offered in one of the choir's songs. Intrigued by the instrument's "button," he wrote a series of pieces exploring the possible styles the harmonica could express.

In college, Runyan could be seen playing a harmonica while riding his bicycle between classes. The practice helped him earn a little spending money in the recording studio, wailing blues riffs for hamburger commercials.

Runyan majored in music composition at Brigham Young University and the College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati, ultimately receiving a Doctor of Musical Arts degree. He has an active career as a composer, arranger, performer, music calligrapher, teacher and orchestra librarian. His orchestral arrangements and compositions have been performed across the country, and he has over 100 published choral works, teaching pieces and arrangements to his credit.

In all his music-making, Runyan says it is the harmonica that gives him a voice of musical expression he can get nowhere else. He claims the hardest thing he ever did was turn down an offer to play a run of the musical *Shenandoah* (which has a prominent harmonica book) because of a looming symphonic composition deadline.

Runyan has performed as harmonica soloist with orchestras across North America, including the Baltimore, Cincinnati, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis symphonies, and has worked with conductors such as Jack Everly, Marvin Hamlisch, Richard Hayman, Michael Krajewski, Erich Kunzel, Steven Reineke, John Morris Russell, and Thomas Wilkins. He also loves to play recitals of music from Bach to Brubeck accompanied by classical guitar and piano.

Runyan currently makes his home in Indianapolis. He and his wife, Pamela, have four children.

[Short Bio No. 1]

Mike Runyan, Harmonica

Mike Runyan's diverse musical background began with learning the piano, trumpet and horn. In high school, he became intrigued by the harmonica and wrote a series of pieces exploring its range of styles and expression. He majored in music composition at Brigham Young University and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and earned a doctor of musical arts degree. Mr. Runyan has an active career as a composer, arranger, performer, music calligrapher, teacher and orchestra librarian. He has more than 100 published choral works, teaching pieces and arrangements to his credit.

Mr. Runyan has performed as harmonica soloist with orchestras across North America, including the Baltimore, Cincinnati, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis symphonies, and has worked with conductors such as Jack Everly, Marvin Hamlisch, Richard Hayman, Michael Krajewski, Erich Kunzel, Steven Reineke, John Morris Russell, and Thomas Wilkins. He makes his home in Indianapolis.

[Short Bio No. 2]

Mike Runyan, Harmonica

Mike Runyan first picked up a harmonica when his dad tossed one into the back seat of the family station wagon on a long vacation. While in high school, Runyan started composing and arranging, a discipline he pursued in college. He eventually earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati.

In 1999, Runyan filled in at the last minute for an ailing Larry Adler with Marvin Hamlisch at the podium of the Indianapolis Symphony. Since then, Mike, using a variety of harmonicas, juggling and magic, has been performing with orchestras across North America.

Besides performing, Mike composes and arranges in collaboration with his wife, Pamela. Their work is performed around the world.