

Keeping the Flame Alive

Preserving the Legacy of William A. Adam

AdamFest 11 – June 20, 2025

Greg Wing

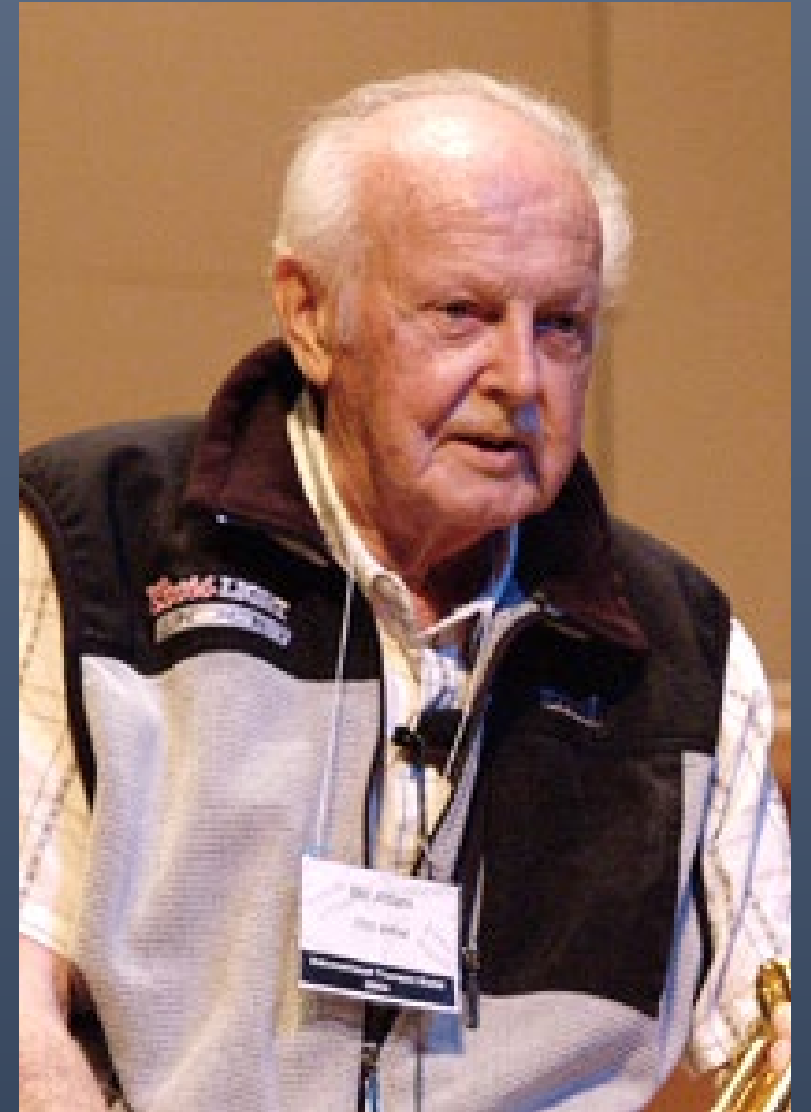




Photo courtesy of Phil May



BRAHMS

SCHUBERT

SAINT-SAENS

Photo Courtesy of Phil May





Photo courtesy of Phil May



334

FIRE
PULL DOWN





WILLIAM ALEXANDER ADAM

(October 21, 1917 - November 25, 2013)

October 15, 2018

The legacy of Professor William Adam may be best reflected in the high regard, passion, and love expressed by those fortunate enough to be guided by his extraordinary ability to not only teach trumpet, but to live a life full of integrity, meaning, and purpose. His belief in each student's potential, along with his teaching methods, made him a unique and inspiring educator.

Adam grew up in Fort Collins, Colorado, and at the age of seven began taking trumpet lessons with Ben Foltz, third cornetist with the John Philip Sousa Band. Adam attended the University of Colorado Denver and Colorado State College in Fort Collins, earning his bachelor's degree in trumpet performance. He then attended the Eastman School of Music, earning master's degrees in music theory and composition, and was within a few hours of completing a master's degree in psychology. In the fall of 1946, he accepted a position at the Indiana University School of Music, now the IU Jacobs School of Music, where he taught applied trumpet for 42 years, retiring in 1988. After his retirement, he continued to teach trumpet lessons privately at his home.

He earned numerous awards throughout his career, including the Robert A. Phillips Service to Music Award, James B. Calvert Outstanding Music Educator Award, and Lifetime Award from the International Trumpet Guild.

There were many facets to Adam's teaching process. He was a student of Aikido, yoga, and Zen, and demonstrated the value of his legendary work ethic daily. He was knowledgeable about the acoustics of brass instruments and was a student of human anatomy. He led his students by modeling a carefully conceived tone tailored to the individual's needs. Using this technique, his students improved intuitively and at an unconscious level. This improvement was organic and natural; it took root, grew, and endured. In addition to the focus on music, Adam focused on each of his students as a whole person.

He believed and lived by the Golden Rule, the Lord's Prayer, and Rudyard Kipling's poem *If*. His studio embraced a very diverse group, and all were welcomed as family. He showed his students the importance of a healthy sense of humor and the celebration of others' successes. Additionally, students were taught to avoid judgment of themselves and others. It was the combination of all these factors that led to his success as a teacher as well as the success of his students. Today, the students of William Adam hold positions in orchestras, jazz bands, and pit orchestras, in addition to being university professors and first-call studio musicians around the world.



What significance does preserving Mr. Adams' legacy hold for us?

Acknowledges the impact and influence he had on those fortunate enough to be guided by his extraordinary ability.

Assists with helping keep his memory and achievements alive, ensuring future generations know their significance.

Demonstrates appreciation and respect for the contributions and sacrifices that he made.

Motivates and inspire others to strive for greatness, creating a lasting and lifelong ripple effect.

Can bridge gaps between past, present, and future generations, fostering a sense of community and shared experience.

Highlights accomplishments and recognizes the hard work and dedication that went into achieving them.

Provides invaluable lessons and insights, helping us navigate our own paths.

Can link generations, providing a sense of stability and tradition.

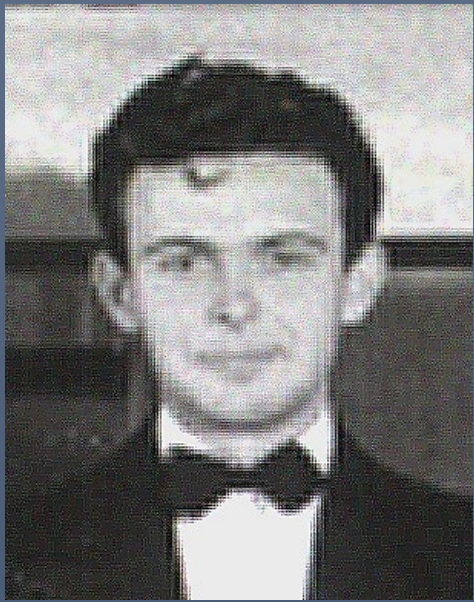
Will encourage us to appreciate the people and events that have shaped our lives.

We can ensure our own legacies are remembered and celebrated in the future.

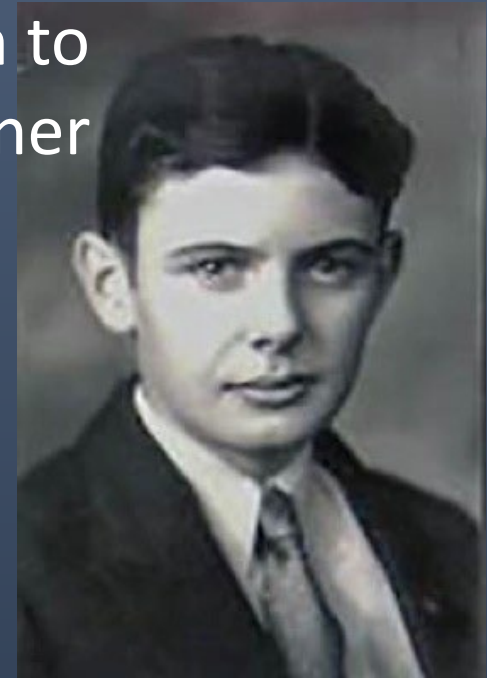


William Alexander Adam
October 21, 1917 – November 25, 2013

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Mr. Adam grew up in Fort Collins, Colorado and graduated from Fort Collins HS at the age of 16. He began taking trumpet lessons at the age of seven from Ben Foltz, 3rd cornetist with the John Philip Sousa Band. He studied with world-renowned teacher Herbert L. Clarke, in addition to Mabel Keith Leach and Hiram Lammers of Warner Brothers Studios, Los Angeles.



When Mr. Adam was 11 years old, he “traveled” from Fort Collins to Denver twice a week to study trumpet with John S. Leick, who was the 1st trumpet player in the Denver Symphony Orchestra from 1924-1935.



National Bureau for the Advancement of Music

and
Colorado Instrumental Directors Association

Award this Certificate to

Bill Adam

as winner of *Superior* rating in *Trumpet, Cornet Solos, H. S. Div.*
of *Packey Mountain Instrumental Contest, and Choral Festival*
held at *Colorado Springs, Colo.*

May 7-12 1935

Fred G. Fink
Chairman

Chas. W. ...
Director
National Bureau for the Advancement of Music
C. V. Buttelman
Executive Secretary
Music Educators National Conference

Mr. Adam left home at the age of 16 to play professional trumpet in California in the Hal Kemp Orchestra with Edgar Clyde “Skinnay” Ennis Jr. He also played for the Lucky Strike Hit Parade, Los Angeles Civic Orchestra and played numerous radio shows.



Hal Kemp And His Orchestra 1934 & 1936

©IRCL
CCD-25



Skinnay Ennis

Bob Allen

Special Guest Star

Kay Thompson And Her Rhythm Singers

During the years he was in California, Mr. Adam attended Pasadena Jr College and the University of California in Los Angeles. In the summers, he played at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco with Ennis, and with the Joseph Serpico band at the Yellowstone Grand Canyon Hotel.

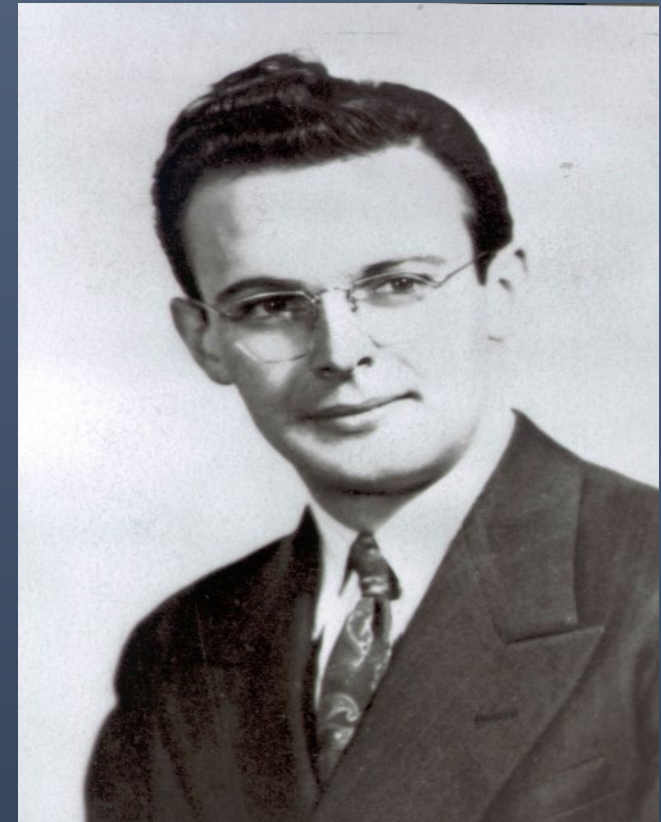


Josef Serpico and his
Grand Canyon Hotel Orchestra.



He returned to Fort Collins to join the Army at Fort Logan during World War II, but due to a previous injury, he was unable to pass the physical for active duty and worked at the Remington Arms Munitions Factory for six months. He then attended both the University of Colorado at Denver and Colorado State College in Fort Collins, earning his bachelor's degree in trumpet performance.

His first teaching job was a band director at Rifle HS in Rifle, Colorado in 1940. He was there for one year before taking a job as band director at Englewood HS just outside Denver so he could play professionally. On the weekends, he played at the Brown Palace Hotel. He was the first trumpet for the KOA Radio Orchestra and played with the Denver Symphony Orchestra



1946

During the summers, he attended the Eastman School of Music from 1947 to 1948, earning master's degrees in music theory and composition.

Mr. Adam taught at Englewood High School for three years, where he met the love of his life, Dorothy Tiemann. They were married in February, 1945.









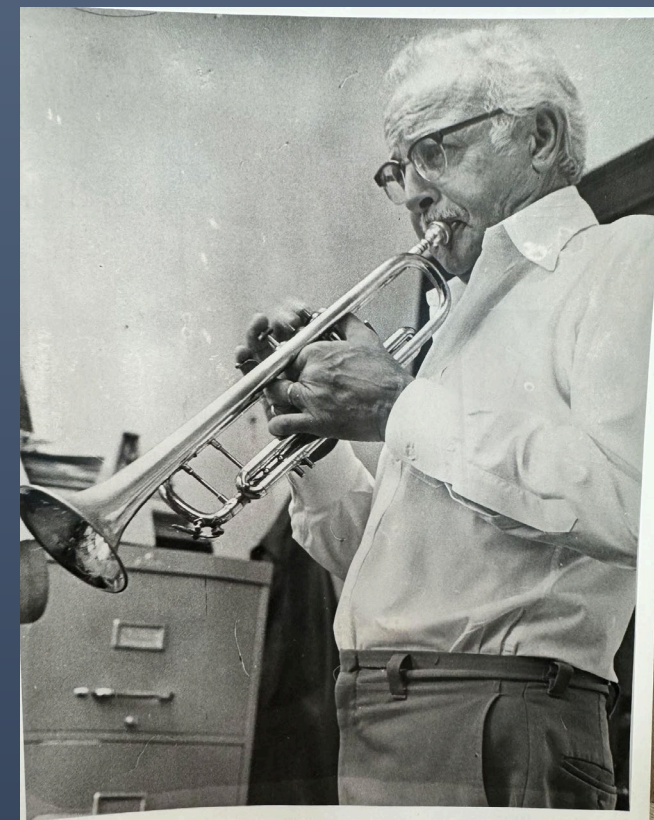
In the fall of 1946, Mr. Adam accepted a position at Indiana University, (now the IU Jacobs School of Music) where he taught trumpet for 42 years, retiring in 1988. After his retirement from IU, he continued to teach trumpet privately at his home through October 14, 2013.



1980's



1959



1977

There were many facets to Mr. Adams teaching process. He was a student of Aikido, yoga, and Zen, and demonstrated the value of his legendary work ethic daily. He was knowledgeable about the acoustics of brass instruments and was a student of human anatomy. He led his students by modeling a carefully conceived tone tailored to the individual's needs. Using this technique, his students improved intuitively and at an unconscious level. This improvement was organic and natural; it took root, grew, and endured. In addition to the focus on music, Mr. Adam focused on each of his students as a whole person.

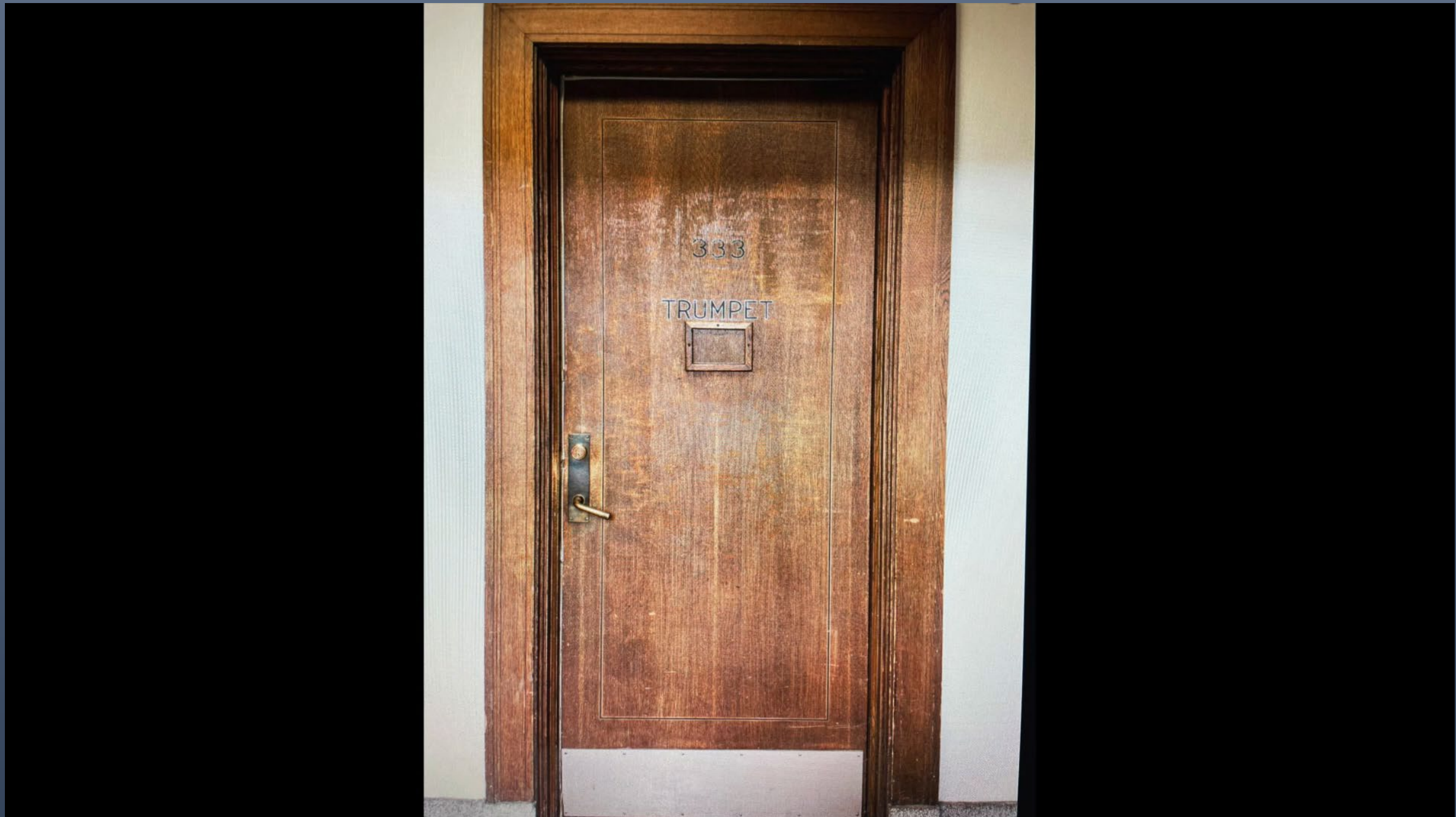


Video Clip #1

Physics of Brass Instruments -

All video clips edited from Citrus College
Masterclass, Glendora, CA; Fall, 1993

(Video courtesy of Bob Slack)

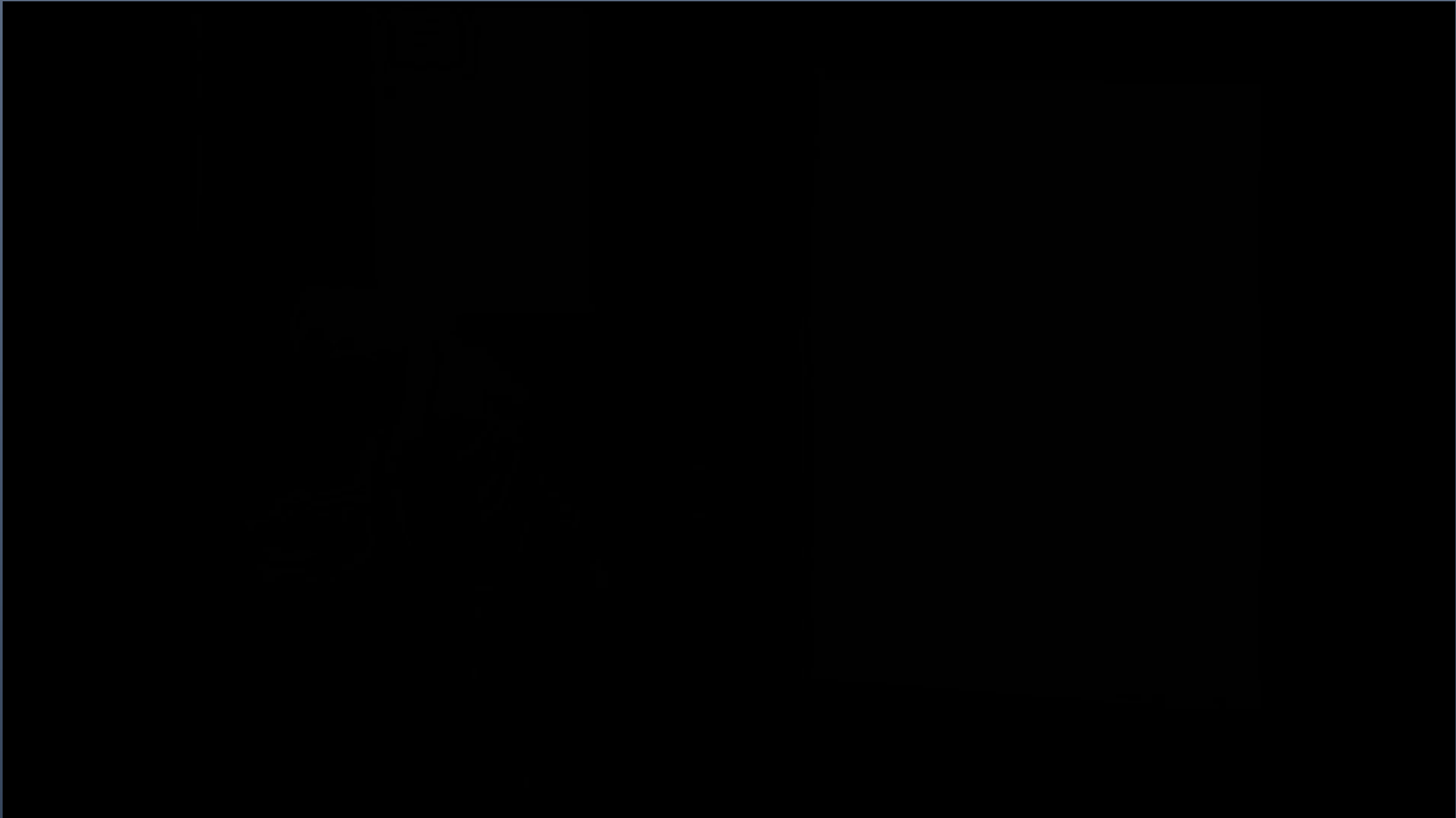


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TRUMPET



Video Clip #2
Buzz vs non buzz-





Video Clip #3
Psychology



Video Clip #4
Self Image

PROMISE YOURSELF

Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind. To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet. To make all your friends feel that there is something in them. To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true. To think only of the best, to work only for the best and expect only the best. To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own. To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future. To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile. To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others. To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble. To think well of yourself and to proclaim this fact to the world not in loud words, but great deeds. To live in faith that the world is on your side so long as you are true to the best that is in you.

- *Christian D. Larson*

“It’s not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strong man stumbled or how the doer of deeds might have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred with the sweat and dust and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes up short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause and who, at best knows the triumph of high achievement and who at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

(Theodore Roosevelt, 1858-1919, 26th US President and 1906 Nobel Peace Prize-winner.)



Video Clip #5
Your Mind in the Music



Video Clip #6
Master Teacher

**“Keep a
quiet mind.”**

**“A MENTAL
THOUGHT
PRODUCES A
PHYSICAL
ACTION.”**

“Alright....

**but keep in mind it
took me 25 years
to learn this.”**

**“Stay relaxed
But
Energized.”**

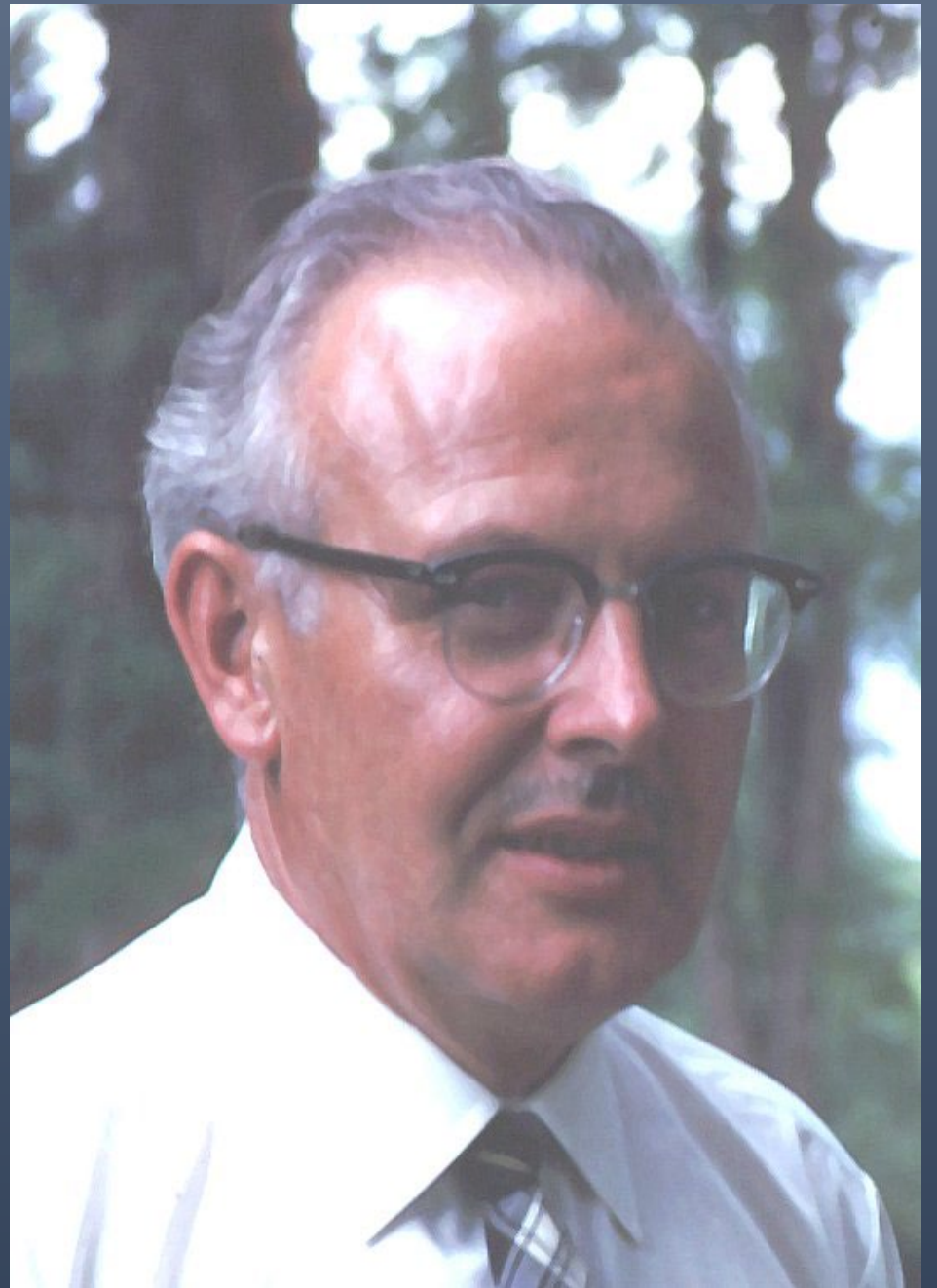
**“Always hold
in your mind and
strive for that
beautiful sound.”**

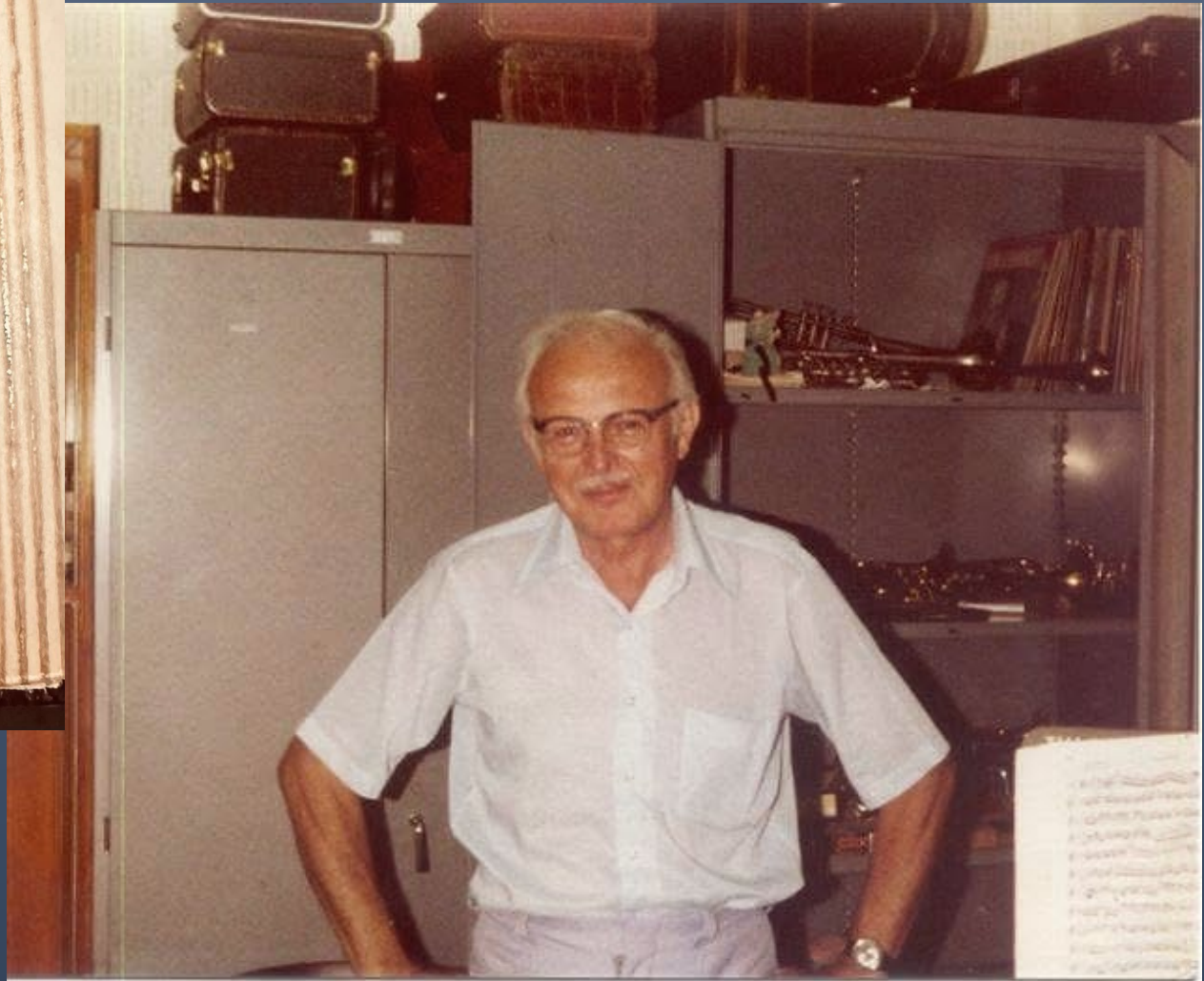
**“There are no
quick fixes for
good trumpet
playing.”**

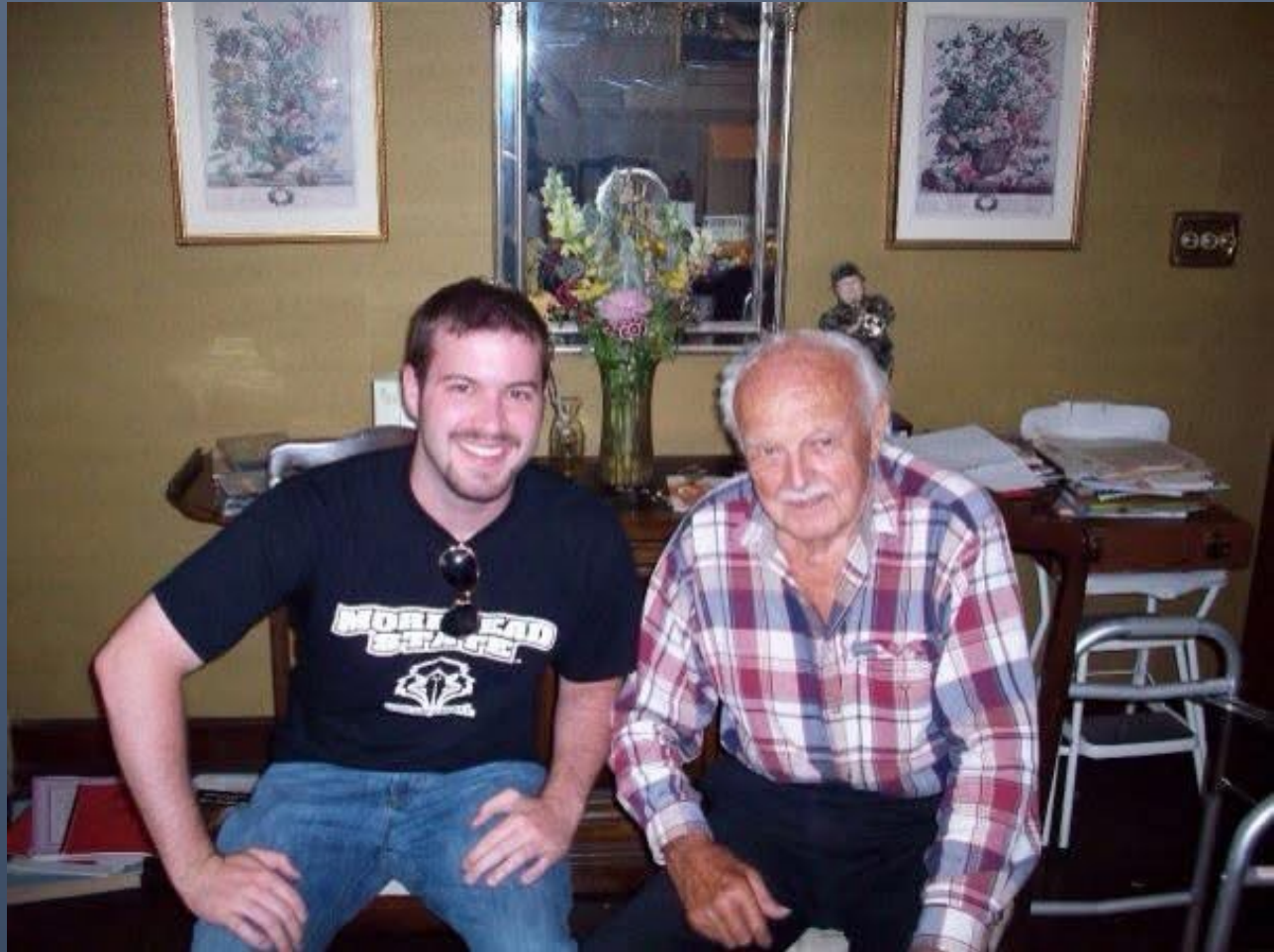
"YOU SAID YOU
PRACTICED THIS
PIECE?"



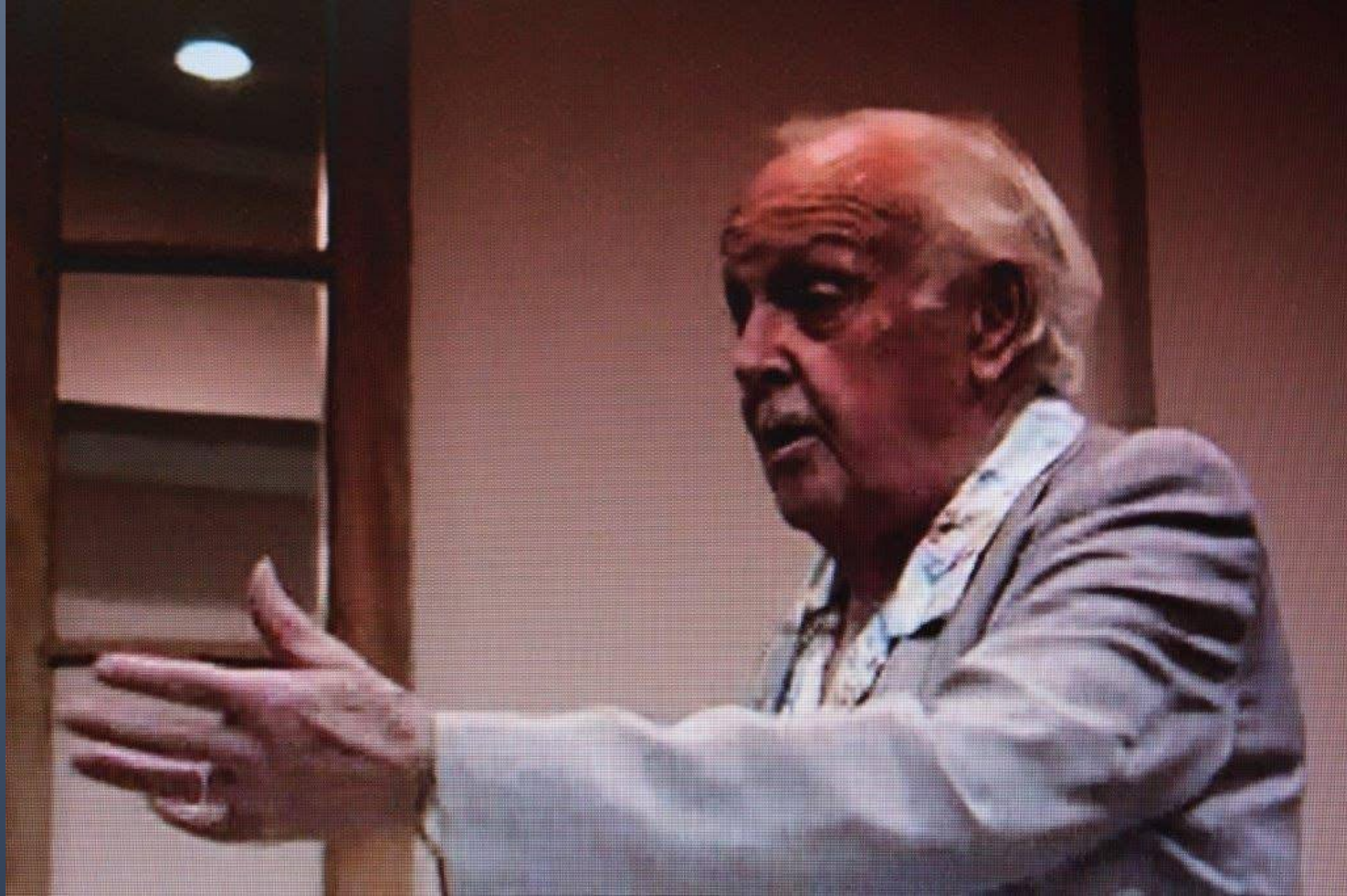
1962





















Mr. Adam believed and lived by the Golden Rule, the Lord's Prayer, and Rudyard Kipling's poem *If*. His studio embraced a very diverse group, and all were welcomed as family. He showed his students the importance of a healthy sense of humor as the celebration of others' successes. Additionally, students were taught to avoid judgment of themselves and others. It was the combination of all these factors that led to his success as a teacher as well as the success of his students.

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If

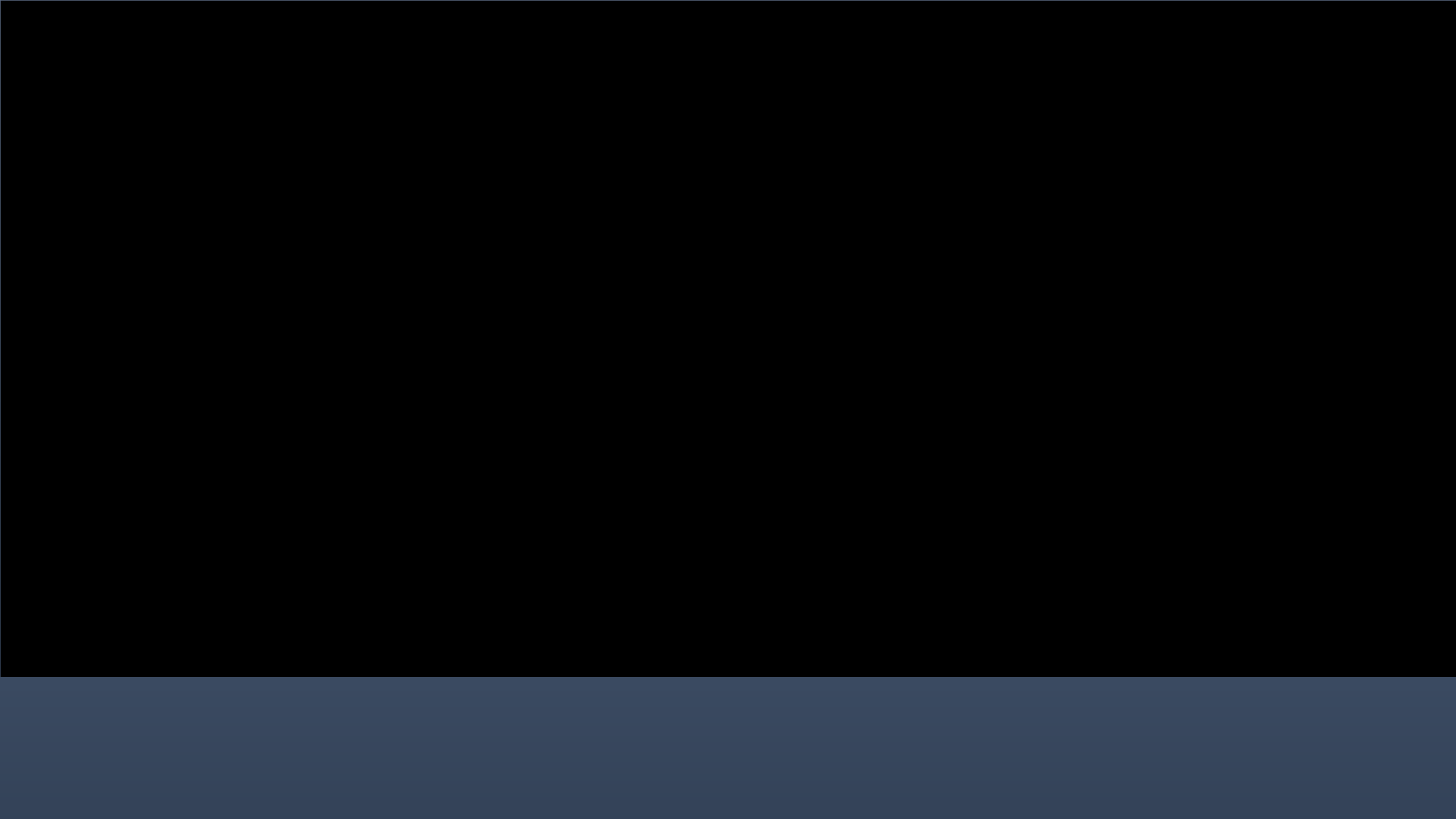
BY RUDYARD KIPLING

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!





In closing, here are three points regarding keeping Mr. Adam's flame burning brightly.

- Mr. Adam believed and lived by the Golden Rule, the Lord's Prayer, and Rudyard Kipling's poem *If*.
- Stay knowledgeable and share accurate information regarding Mr. Adam's teachings. "Knowledge is your greatest weapon".
- Give Back! Help others on their journey. Inspire others to make a positive impact to create a ripple effect of kindness and generosity.



Mr. Adam passed away on November 25, 2013 at the Indiana University Health Hospice House in Bloomington, Indiana.

