

American Harp Society Founding Board Member

Robert Maxwell

Robert Maxwell (a stage name) was the youngest of three brothers who became harpists: Abe Rosen, Myor Rosen, and Max Rosen. The Rosen brothers received harp lessons and access to an instrument through the efforts of the Philharmonic Scholarship Committee of New York City, whose aim was to foster more American-born classical musicians.

Maxwell's harp teachers included Stephanie Goldner Ormandy, Marcel Grandjany, and Bernard Zighéra. Although classically-trained, Maxwell was enthralled by the possibilities of jazz improvisation and popular music.

Over his career he recorded 33 albums, was a member of Matty Malneck's band, spent World War II playing with Rudy Vallee and the 11th Naval District Coast Guard Band, and performed at fashionable supper clubs in New York, Hollywood, San Francisco, Chicago, and Las Vegas. He appeared on television shows hosted by Jackie Gleason, Milton Berle, Ed Sullivan, Steve Allen, Jack Paar and Johnny Carson.

Beyond playing the harp, Maxwell was a successful composer. He wrote tunes that landed on the Billboard Music Charts including *Ebb Tide* and *Shangri-La*, as well as much more music for television and film.



Brought To You By *The American Harp Journal*