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Host of 'Great Music from Chicago' was 86

Longtime overnight voice of WGN, Jay Andres, dead

WGN, Chicago Tribune staff
6:12 p.m. CDT, September 27, 2010



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Jay Andres, who hosted WGN Radio's overnight music program during much of the 1970s and into the early '80s, is dead at 86.

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He died this morning of heart congestion in Sebastopol, Calif., according to his daughter, Polly Webner. She says he was surrounded by family, including his wife, Virginia, two daughters and a son-in-law.

Born Joseph Hilbert Andres, he hosted WBBM's overnight "Music 'til Dawn" program -- billed as "Classics, semiclassicals and best-loved show melodies throughout the 'quiet hours'" --from 1953 to 1968. He joined WGN when WBBM went all-news, and took the overnight slot in 1973, staying for 10 years.

His WGN show -- known over the years by a number of names, including "The Jay Andres Show," "Music 'til Dawn" and "Great Music from Chicago" -- opened each night with Percy Faith's "Bouquet," serving up a musical minestrone featuring show tunes, pop, jazz, opera and classical music.

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Andres joined classical-music WNIB in morning drive in 1985, staying until 1990, when he became fine-arts WFMT's morning announcer for a year.

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