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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.

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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