



Johnny Zell *WA6AEH* Best known for his featured trumpet on television's "Lawrence Welk Show." Born Fort Benning, GA in 1947. Raised in L.A. Starting out in music at an early age, first the violin and later moving on to trumpet. Zell's first audition for Welk when he was only age 15. Mr. Welk advised him to come back when a bit older and more experience.

After completing high school, Johnny played for Freddy Martin and Russ Morgan bands before he got his draft notice to serve in the Army. During that time in the military he played for the NORAD band known as the Commander's along with future Welk musicians Dave Edwards and Richard Maloof. It was in 1968 that Zell's second chance to audition for Mr. Welk when Johnny was asked to do a television commercial for Army recruiting and part of the job was to do an interview for the Welk Show and play trumpet for the band. After his performance on that show, Lawrence, who was now impressed, hired him into the band upon his completion of his military service.

From 1968 until the show ended in 1982, Johnny was one of the show's most popular musicians and was often featured in solos as String of Pearls, At the Cross and Hot Lips. He is also involved in the Gospel Ministry pursuing both Christian and secular music doing many concert dates and making albums.

Today, he and his wife Laura, both live in Oregon and is the father of four children. Mainly s c r i p t e d f r o m Wikipedia.org

W8SU 2006

