

Wind Band and purchased instruments for a local orphanage. He taught René to love music and was able to secure him a place in Alexandre Petit's and Pierre Vignal's classes at the Paris Conservatory.



René graduated in 1916, earning a Prize of Excellence, and was awarded his first new cornet, which is now a special possession of the Voisin family.

During World War I, René was a freelance musician in many Parisian theaters together with trumpeters Auguste Mériguet and Bailleul (1914-18) and was briefly a stretcher-bearer in the military. In 1918, he and Anne-Marie Mace were married and had a son, Roger Louis, in that same year. After military service, René worked as solo cornet and second trumpeter at the Société des Concerts du Conservatoire (1920-1928). He had a hectic schedule that left little time for home life. In the mid-1920s he began to have heart problems.

Voisin participated in the well-known Koussevitzky Concerts that occurred between 1921 and 1928 in Paris. Koussevitzky had become the conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and was recruiting musicians from France. He offered Voisin a position as fourth trumpet in the BSO. Thinking that it would be better for his health to make a living playing in only one orchestra, Voisin accepted the offer and moved the family to Boston in 1928.

Once in America, Voisin performed for many years in the BSO and began teaching his son Roger to play the trumpet, who eventually became the third trumpet in the orchestra at the age of sixteen, and later principal. However, heart problems finally ended René's life in 1952. Anne-Marie said that he was a very polite, kind-hearted, intelligent man with a wonderful sense of humor and great laughter. *We had a very good marriage together.* She attempted to lighten his household chores: *I did everything I could to not let him do the hard work. Here I did my jobs and I did all the work. He was ashamed [that he could not help], so I do pretty much the same now that he is gone.* Being a wonderful cook and hostess, Anne-Marie later opened a small restaurant in her home, "Chez Voisin."

Bibl.: Arndt, Michael John. *The Extraordinary Roger Voisin: His Life and Contributions to Trumpet Performance, Repertoire, and Teaching* (unpublished DMA diss., Arizona State University, 2004);

Laplace, Michel. *Trompette, Cuivres & XXe Siècle* (CD-Rom, 2008, p 1014).

Voisin, Roger Louis (b. Angers, France, June 26, 1918; d. Auburndale, Massachusetts, Feb. 13, 2008). American trumpeter. Roger was the most famous of a family of trumpeters, and one of the greatest



orchestral players of all time. His unique personality and playing style were a marvel to all who knew him.

Roger's father René was a highly respected trumpeter who spent much of his early career in Paris working in various orchestras. In the 1920s, René began to have heart problems, possibly due to his hectic schedule from juggling numerous playing jobs in the city. During his boyhood years, Roger said that he hardly saw his father because René left each morning before Roger awoke, and he did not return until after Roger had gone to bed.

When Sergey Koussevitzky became conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, he recruited numerous French musicians to come to Boston. René was offered a position as fourth trumpet in the BSO at a large salary and decided to take the offer, thinking that this would be less stressful and would allow him more time with the family. So in 1928, the Voisin family settled in Boston.

At this time, Roger was ten years old and of an age that he could begin playing the trumpet with his father's guidance. Although Roger had received some general music training in Paris, René arranged for him to take solfège lessons with Gaston Dufresne, a contrabassist in the BSO. Roger said of Dufresne, *His teaching of rhythm was based on terror.* However, Roger attributed his uncanny rhythmic precision and variety of articulations to his studies with Dufresne.

Roger had a large gap between his upper two front teeth that caused him to place the mouthpiece off to one side of his mouth. *My*