

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Inductee



Ellsworth “BABE” Wagner (1914 – 1949) Inducted in 1992

Ellsworth “BABE” Wagner – A descendent of accomplished musicians, Babe had become an accomplished musician by the age of 10. He learned to play the piano, violin, saxophone, drums and trombone. Among all the instruments he played, trombone became his instrument of choice. At age 15, Wagner played with the Whoopee John band. He traveled with several prominent dance bands and played with them during recording sessions in Chicago. In 1939, he joined the Gene Krupa band. He toured the country with the Krupa band, playing in famous places and taking part in movies. Wagner began his own band in 1946. Two of the members were his brothers, Virgil, and Edward. Babe died at the age of 35.

