

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Inductee



Standford Freese (1945 –) Inducted in 1995

Standford Freese calls himself “the most unknown tuba player in the world.” And yet, he has probably taken the tuba to more exotic places than anyone else. Freese has played at the Great Wall of China, Japan, the Kremlin, honky tonks in Nashville and marched with Pete Fountain at the Mardi Gras. Add to this, seven years playing tuba on “Hee-Haw” as well as guest appearances with blues and rock bands. An Edina native, Freese has worked for Walt Disney for the past 24 years. He was a band director for Disney World when it opened and now is show director/of bands at Disneyland. That involves occasional visits to Disney parks in Tokyo, Orlando and Paris to do fine-tuning of the live-music presentations. Early in his career, he was band director at Edison High School in northeast Minneapolis. For a number of years Stan did a music comedy act with accordionist Skeets Langley. He writes country lyrics for “Hee-Haw”, he plays in a Dixieland band and he fronts a blues band, which he calls his “party band”.

