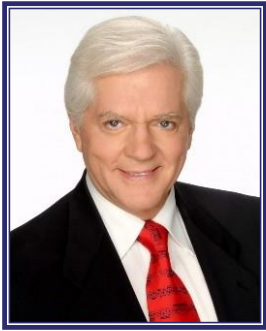


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* TEACHERS *of* SINGING



BILL HAYES

THE BILL HAYES FUND

PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE NATIONAL MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

Bill Hayes' extraordinary career spanned well over 70 years and featured nearly every musical and theatrical medium during that time: musical theater, straight theater, operetta, radio, commercial recordings, television, cabaret, commercials, industrial musicals, and film.

Receiving his master's degree in his early 20s, his beautiful tenor voice was trained in the classical technique. With a young family to support, opportunities on the stage and in television pulled him in that direction. His early career was boosted by a long run on the weekly television variety show *Your Show of Shows*, in which he sang everything from opera to hit parade standards. In addition, he danced and acted in comedy skits with other pioneering TV stars, including Sid Caesar, Imogene Coca and Carl Reiner. He left the show in 1953 to be a lead in the original cast of the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *Me and Juliet*. Bill's credits include over fifty roles in musical theater and nearly that number in straight theater productions. In musicals, his roles include many Golden Age standards, such as *Carousel* and *South Pacific*, and later the classics of the 1960s, including *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Camelot*. He sang both tenor and baritone roles. Through the following decades Bill continued to build his credits, including *1776*, *Sweeney Todd* and *The Music Man*. Remarkably, at the age of 83, Bill performed the tapdancing role of Billy Flynn in *Chicago*.

Bill appeared in Broadway tours, regional summer stock, radio programs, television, films and on recordings. Among his 200 single releases was "The Ballad of Davy Crockett" with sales of over 4 million, earning him a Gold Record in 1955. Eventually, family needs required that he stay in one location, so in 1970 he accepted the role of Doug Williams on the daytime television drama *Days of Our Lives*. This began a highly successful phase of his career: Bill was an immediate hit with the audience and due to his skill as a musician, singing began to be incorporated into the plot of the show. He married his popular co-star on the show, Susan Seaforth Hayes, in 1974, and they appeared frequently together on the show until shortly before his death. Bill and Susan received the Daytime Emmy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

Bill held broad interests outside his busy career, earning a doctorate in education, and was fascinated by history and family genealogy. Well into his 90s, he attended tap class and was a faithful member of his church choir. As dedicated opera fans, Bill and Susan held season tickets to the Los Angeles Opera for decades. They co-authored three books, traveled the world and cherished time with their large family.

Watch a documentary on Bill Hayes's life: <https://www.billhayesmovie.com/fullmovie>

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