

Mario F. Oneglia

Mario F. Oneglia was born in New York City on September 23rd, 1927, and graduated from the Bronx High School of Science. He started playing jazz trumpet with bands along the East Coast at age 16. Sometimes assuming the stage name Marty Ornell, he played with musicians such as Louis Prima, Pupi Campo, Luis Del Campo, Machito, and Tito Puente. A son of Italian immigrants, Mario embraced the multitude of cultures and colorful characters he was exposed to during his years on the New York Jazz circuit.

He attended the Manhattan School of Music, where he met his wife, Sue Dorris Oneglia. Together, they went on to Columbia University Teachers College where he received his Masters and Doctorate degrees in Music Education. Tired of the showbiz life, Mario switched over to teaching music; first at Garden City Junior High School, and later as professor at Montclair State University, where he would teach, conduct, and compose for the next 40 years. He was ever keen to hone his musicianship skills and studied conducting and composing under Tibor Serly during this time. Additionally, while on sabbatical leaves, Oneglia studied conducting techniques in at least ten European countries. He is the author of the published work "Contemporary Conducting Techniques" and a biographical work-in-progress called "Showbiz."

Beyond his professional career, he had an active yoga practice for many years and later in life, took up the cello. During the summers, he enjoyed spending time with family and friends at his wilderness property on the Mad River in California. He died in 2008, at age 80.