

Interview with Joe Dallas, Jr.

You may not know that Paradise Big Band Leader Joe Dallas also is a member of the Key West Pops Orchestra. "I am honored to be one in the group of Key West musicians who has played in nearly every Pops concert," Dallas said. Pops Artistic Director Vincent Zito is proud to include 10-12 local players in each of the Pops orchestra events.

Dallas hails from Pittsburgh, the son of jazz trombonist Joseph Dallas, Sr., who lived at the Tropicana in Las Vegas and played with jazz legends like Tony Bennet and Sammy Davis, Jr. Dallas was inspired by his musician father and also by his mother, a liberal arts professor, to become a teacher and bandleader. He graduated summa cum laude in Music Education, with emphasis on jazz performance, from Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. Since 1996, Dallas has taught general music at the Sugarloaf Middle School where he also conducts the band and the choir. An accomplished trombonist and bass player, Dallas took over leadership of the Paradise Big Band from founder Harry Schroeder.

Joe Dallas, Sr. still lives in Pittsburgh, but travels to Key West to play with the Paradise Big Band and the Pops. Both of the Dallas trombones can be heard with the Pops in *Home for the Holidays* and *My Fair Lady*, as well as in the Paradise Big Band Tribute to Frank Sinatra (January 3) and Tribute to Duke Ellington and Count Basie (March 21).