

Bill Watrous, Trombonist and Bandleader, Is Dead at 79

By [Giovanni Russonello](#)

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Bill Watrous, whose crisp and graceful playing made him one of the world's most respected trombonists, died on July 3 at a hospital in Los Angeles. He was 79.

His sister, Sheila Watrous Wright, confirmed the death but did not specify the cause.

Mr. Watrous was heard often on studio recordings by artists like Quincy Jones, Prince and Frank Sinatra. But over a nearly 50-year career as a bandleader, he also released more than a dozen albums under his own name, spotlighting his eloquent playing in a range of contexts.

For a time in the 1970s he led a jazz-rock big band, Manhattan Wildlife Refuge, which released two albums on Columbia Records.

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