

Joe Smith was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts. He was President of his Chelsea High School class. After serving with the US Army Infantry in the Far East, he received his BA from Yale University.

Mr. Smith worked as a sportscaster and disc jockey in Virginia and Pennsylvania before moving back to Boston where he became a top-rated and pioneering Rock 'n' Roll disc jockey, and appeared in the motion picture "Jamboree."

In 1961 he moved to California and entered the music business as National Promotion Manager for Warner Bros. Records. He was named Promotion Executive of the year four times by the Gavin Report, an industry trade publication. Mr. Smith rose to the office of President of the company in 1972.

During those years he discovered and guided the careers of such artists as Peter, Paul & Mary, Bill Cosby, Rod Stewart, James Taylor, The Grateful Dead, Van Morrison, Bonnie Raitt, Black Sabbath, Deep Purple, Petula Clark, The Allman Brothers, Jethro Tull, The Doobie Brothers, George Benson, Al Jarreau and Seals & Crofts. He also worked closely with Reprise artists Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Jimi Hendrix, Trini Lopez, Neil Young, Joni Mitchell and Randy Newman.

In 1975 Mr. Smith became Chairman of Elektra / Asylum Records, another division of Warner Communications. For eight years he worked with the Eagles, Linda Ronstadt, Jackson Brown, Queen, The Cars, Carly Simon, Judy Collins, Joni Mitchell, Grover Washington Jr., Motley Crue, X, and Hank Williams Jr., among others.

In 1983 he was named President and CEO of Home Sports Entertainment, a division of Warner Cable. Following this, he became the first full-time President of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS). During this time, he appeared in motion pictures "FM" and "One Trick Pony."

In 1985 Mr. Smith achieved the herculean task of interviewing over 230 artists, producers, managers and executives, which constituted his book *Off the Record* that would become a strong seller in Italy, England, Japan and the USA. The interviews were donated to the Library of Congress and put them online under the heading "The Joe Smith Collection."

In 1987 Mr. Smith became President and CEO of Capital-EMI Music, which includes the Blue Note and Angel labels. During his seven years, the company registered record profits from artists such as Garth Brooks, Tina Turner, Bonnie Raitt, MC Hammer, Bob Seger, David Bowie, Poison, Megadeth and others.

Upon his retirement from Capital in 1993, Mr. Smith assumed Executive Producer responsibilities to the World Cup Soccer tournament. Climaxing with an appearance by The Three Tenors at Dodger Stadium.

In 2001 he was elected to the New England Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, the Doo Wop Hall of Fame, and received the Boston Music Lifetime award.

Mr. Smith has been a highly visible executive and spokesman for the music industry in Washington and overseas. He has led the fight for copyright protection and against piracy, testifying before several Congressional committees. He has been Vice President of the Country Music Association, President of the Record Industry for Community Relations, and a board member of the Recording Industry Association (RIAA) and the Black Music Association.

He has been a guest speaker or toastmaster at almost every music event over the past 35 years. He was the first American to keynote the London based Music Week Awards.

Mr. Smith has been the recipient of a multitude of awards from organizations such as the City of Hope, B'nai Brith, NARAS and others, and was granted an honorary Doctor of Music from Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he served as a Commencement Speaker.

He has served as an officer or director of the City of Hope, Cedars-Sinai Hospital, TJ Martell foundation, Variety Club and the Neil Bogart Memorial Lab. He is a Trustee at the California Institute of the Arts (CALARTS), Yale School of Music, the Basketball Hall of Fame, Magic Johnson Foundation, Rhythm and Blues Foundation and the Museum of Science and Industry.

Mr. Smith is married to Donnie Smith. They have two children, Jeffrey Smith and Julie Kellner and two grandchildren, one grandson Christopher and one granddaughter Lila. He resides in Beverly Hills.