

# Georgia Rambler: The Life and Music of Benjamin Neely Plumb

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View the Summit presentation at:  
<https://youtu.be/Hd9cclRoNfk>

## Abstract

Benom Plumb gives a thirty-minute presentation about his upcoming book, *Georgia Rambler*, a narrative adult nonfiction work, part memoir and part biography. The book takes readers through the lifetime and musical achievements of Benom's great-uncle, the famous musician, A&R man, and record producer, Benjamin Neely Plumb (1912-2000). Neely Plumb is a posthumous coauthor with his great-nephew Benom, because a large portion of the content comes from Neely's unpublished personal memoir. In 2016, Benom Plumb was given permission by Neely's surviving children to edit and publish the memoir in a book about their father's life and achievements. The memoir as presented in the book was written in Neely's own words in the early 1990s and later edited by Benom Plumb for publication (currently under review by the University Press of Mississippi). Neely personally takes the reader from his childhood in the deep south of Augusta, Georgia, where he led his first band, "Neely Plumb and His Georgia Tech Ramblers", until around 1967, a couple of years after signing Jefferson Airplane to RCA. During America's Golden Years of recorded music from the 1930s to the 1970s, one man was behind some of the world's most beloved and celebrated recordings, artists, and soundtracks—Neely Plumb. In the span of his nearly six decades in the U.S. music industry, Neely Plumb's credentials include touring and performing with Artie Shaw; recording and performing for RKO Motion Picture Studios; recording on tracks for Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby; musical director, arranger, and conductor of Sheb Wooley's "Purple People Eater"; West Coast A&R Producer and Manager for RCA Victor signing The Monkees, The Limeliters, and Jefferson Airplane to their RCA recording contracts; and earning multiple RIAA Certified Gold Records producing the film soundtracks for *The Sound*

*of Music, Bye Bye Birdie, Franco Zeffirelli's Romeo & Juliet, The Good, The Bad & The Ugly, True Grit, and more.*  
This is his story.

Keywords: Benjamin Neely Plumb, music industry, A&R



Educator, author, songwriter, producer, and music business professional **Benom Plumb** has the music business in his genes. A music industry professional since 2006, Benom is the great-nephew to the acclaimed record producer, A&R man, arranger, conductor, and clarinetist, Neely Plumb ("Purple People Eater," *The Sound of Music*, Jefferson Airplane, Juan Esquivel, Neal Hefti's "Batman Theme"). Professor Plumb recently authored a book based on Neely Plumb's memoir titled, *Georgia Rambler: The Life and Music of Neely Plumb*, currently under peer review with the University Press of Mississippi.

Professor Plumb has published various articles about music industry topics and has been cited in the peer reviewed journals of Yeshiva University's *Cardozo Arts & Entertainment Law Journal*, University of Virginia's *Sports and Entertainment Law Journal*, and Fordham University's *Media and Entertainment Law Journal*. Professor Plumb has also been quoted as a music publishing and music licensing expert by American Public Media's *Marketplace*, the National Music Publishers Association, WNYC's *The Takeaway*, and *The Denver Post*.

Benom Plumb's creative music projects include a rock project under the fitting name, Professor Plumb, and an electronic/sample-based music project called, The Jolly Backbeat. Professor Plumb's rock music has been featured in The CW network TV show *Legacies* as well as in the PlayStation/Oculus virtual reality video game *Drums Rock*. The Jolly Backbeat's lo-fi instrumental track, "California Moon," received Spotify playlist attention with over 6,000 streams in the summer of 2021.

Before arriving at the University of the Pacific, from 2013 to 2020, Professor Plumb was Assistant Professor of Music Industry Studies at the University of Colorado Denver and worked concert merchandise for touring artists at Red Rocks Amphitheater such as Billie Eilish, Twenty One Pilots, and Kacey Musgraves. From 2007 to 2012, Plumb was Vice President of Licensing at Bluewater Music in Nashville. During his time at Bluewater, Plumb led all TV/Film music licensing projects, signing new talent, pitching songs to artists, finding publishing royalties, negotiating various business deals, and representing the company throughout the world at music industry events. Plumb earned his BM at the University of Texas, Arlington, and his MM in Music Business at the Frost School of Music, University of Miami.



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