Ferdinand Rudolph Grofé, Ferde Grofé:

Born into a musical family. His father was an actor and a britone. His mother a concert cellist. Grofé was only 17 when he wrote his first commissioned piece. He played violin for the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra and he was a pianist with Paul Whiteman. He was also an arranger for Whiteman. His most known works were the Grand Canyon Suite and the Mississippi Suite. He also orchestrated Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue for Whiteman. His well rounded background in music in general and his recording history for Ampico earned him a place in the AMICA Hall of Fame.