



Lynn Alexander McNatt was born in Luray, Tennessee on June 21, 1927, the son of James Witty and Minnie Alice Gilbert McNatt. He grew up in a very musical family. His maternal grandfather was the director of one of the first brass bands ever to perform in West Tennessee. Mr. McNatt's father played the five string banjo and taught him to play the banjo when he was five years old. His older brothers all studied music from an early age and the family often practiced and played together in their home. Mr. McNatt entered the Chester County High School Band in the fifth grade. He chose the trumpet, the instrument of his grandfather, and became proficient as a band member and a soloist. When he entered high school he studied with teachers in Memphis and at the age of sixteen was a member of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Between high school graduation and entering the United States Army School of Music, he played with dance bands across the United States. Following his discharge from the army, he entered the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and Union University in Jackson Tennessee, earning his degree in Music from Union and later a Master's Degree in Education from Memphis State University. Mr. McNatt earned both of his degrees while serving as Band Director at North Side High School in Jackson, Tennessee; where he organized the first band in 1951. He served as Band Director there for thirty one years. Mr. McNatt also organized the first band at North Side Junior High School. Following his retirement, he taught private students until 1999. He is the father of former West Tennessee Band Director Rev. Terry McNatt of Knoxville and Dr. Linda Page of Jackson. Lynn and his wife Martha currently reside in Jackson.

Born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Served in the Army Air Corps Bands in World War II. First public school teaching was in Little Rock and Crossett, Arkansas. Moved to West Tennessee in 1954 and became the band director at Munford. In 1959 was Memphis Overton's first band director. The next year moved to Messick. At Messick, Mr. Swayzee developed many all-state and West Tennessee players. Many students became professional players and teachers.

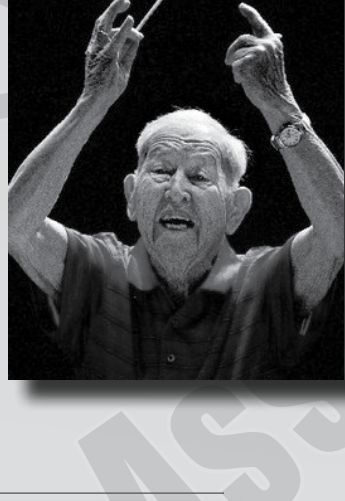
In 1970, Mr. Swayzee was elected to the American School Band Directors Association. This association is dedicated to the development and improvement of school bands. He later served as membership chairman for the group.

In 1973 Mr. Swayzee transferred to Wooddale Jr. High and retired from classroom teaching at Wooddale Senior High in 1980. Soon after retirement from the city schools, Mr. Swayzee began teaching privately for Barry Lumpkin at Harding Academy. He taught there for 22 years and is grateful for the support in this endeavor by Mr. Lumpkin.

When not teaching band, Mr. Swayzee was active in Colonial Baptist Church. Mr. Swayzee created a community band group, Christian Winds in 1980 and served as director until 1992. This group provided an outlet for both young and old musicians to continue playing their instruments and also provided music for many evening services at local churches. Mr. Swayzee was married to Frances Smith Swayzee for 64 years. Frances passed away in 2006.

Mr. Swayzee is currently retired and living in South Florida with his son and daughter-in-law. In Florida he continued his clarinet playing in a local community band.

The former students of Messick Bands under T.W. Swayzee's direction have held 15 annual reunions in appreciation of their band experienced under T.W. Swayzee.



Mr. Bill Watson was an educator for forty-one years, thirty-two years as band director for the Madison County School System. The last 19 years were spent teaching at North Side High School in Jackson and the 13 years prior to that was at Jackson-Central Merry High School. Over the years, Mr. Watson's bands received numerous superior ratings at concert and marching festivals. The bands won numerous awards for outstanding performances at BOA, WGI, and COC. He also had numerous students to participate in honor bands, All West and All State clinics.

There is no way to know exactly how many thousands of children Mr. Watson has influenced, disciplined and guided during his career. His numerous honors and awards include Tennessee Governor's School of the Arts Outstanding Teacher and President of West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association.

Mr. Watson received his Bachelor's of Music from Union University and his Masters of Arts from Murray State University. Mr. Watson had also done postgraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin. He was an active member of Music Educators' National Conference, Tennessee Music Educator's Association, West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association Tennessee Education Association, and the National Education Association. Mr. Watson served as a judge for All State auditions and was a member of TMEA Board for two years.

Mr. Watson served an adjudicator and clinician in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky, Florida and Oklahoma. Mr. Watson is married to Donna and together they have two children: Jeff and Jason.

Janet Warren retired from full time teaching in the spring of 2008, after 38 years as a band director. Her degrees include a BME from Lincoln University, MME from the University of Missouri, and additional graduate work done at the University of Memphis. She has taught in Missouri, in the Jackson-Madison School system and at Jackson State Community College.

While teaching at North Side Junior High, her band was selected to perform at the prestigious International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. The band also was selected to perform at the TMEA conference. During her tenure at Jackson State, she founded the Jackson Area Community Band and served as its director for 10 years. Her bands have consistently earned superior ratings at concert festival and many of her students have been selected to honor bands, including All-West and All-State groups. Her last full time position was at Madison Academic Magnet High School in Jackson. She is currently an adjunct faculty member at Union University where she directs the Symphonic Band and teaches music education classes.

She is a past president of the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association and has served as a clinician and adjudicator in Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina and Mississippi.

In 2009 she was presented with an Outstanding Service award by TMEA.

She has served as a Reach to Recovery volunteer for the American Cancer Society and is a member of Northside United Methodist Church in Jackson TN.



Dr. Sidney J. McKay is Director of Bands and Professor Emeritus at the University of Memphis, having recently retired from full-time service after a 44-year career in teaching at both the university and secondary school levels.

Dr. McKay was educated at the University of Louisiana - Monroe and the University of Southern Mississippi. At the University of Memphis, he conducted the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and administered a large band program consisting of The Mighty Sound of the South Marching Band and two additional concert bands.

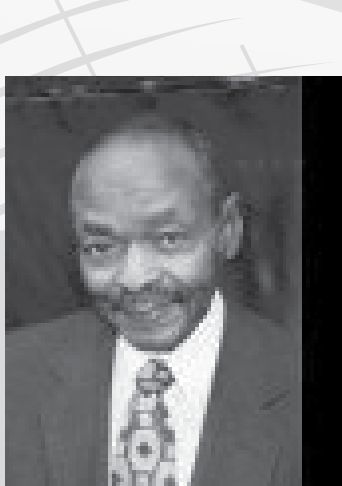
Dr. McKay has served as clinician and adjudicator of bands within the United States as well as Mexico, Europe and Japan. He has always been active in community musical organizations, having conducted symphony orchestras, church choirs, community theater pit orchestras and community bands. In 1987, he became the conductor and musical director of The River City Concert Band (a community band of approximately 65 players) that performs in the Memphis area as well as abroad. He holds membership in many professional organizations including CBDNA, NBA, MENC, TMEA and WTSBOA. He has twice been awarded the Citation of Excellence by the National Band Association and was chosen Outstanding Band Director of the Year by the Delta Chapter of Phi Beta Mu.

In October 2001, Dr. McKay was the very first recipient of the Mentor of the Year Award given by the National Band Association. Many of his former students serve as high school and university band directors as well as in other music professions.

Frank Congiardo lived the life of a true musician and a passionate educator. With his enthusiasm and drive he molded and mentored the lives of countless students, colleagues, neighbors, friends and family. Frank was a life long music educator who also taught perseverance, hard work, commitment, and leadership. Frank inspired many students to follow in his footsteps as musicians and music educators including his two sons who carry on his talent and legacy.

From 1962 until his retirement in 1994, Frank served as a Band Director at several West TN schools including McNairy Central High School, Adamsville High School and Selmer High School, where he would eventually become the principal. After his retirement, Frank continued his love of music and teaching by giving private music lessons and performing in community bands and jazz combos as he had done throughout his life.

Frank passed away in June of 2008. He would never acknowledge the profound impact he had on others, but it is felt everyday in the lives of the people who knew him. However, beyond all the awards, accolades and honors Frank has received, his family and his students are his true trophies and he will forever remain immortal through them.



Robert Hodge - An unsung hero in Milan's music world

From the war-torn Burma Road in southern Asia during WWII to school band rooms in Tennessee, Robert Hodge covered a lot of miles in his life as a musician and teacher.

Hodge was the band director at the segregated Polk-Clark School (1963-1970) and became Milan's junior high band director and high school assistant until retiring in 1987. After retiring he helped with programs in Crockett Co. and West Carroll and gave hundreds of private lessons to young Milan students.

"Robert Hodge was the unseen influence of the Milan band program for many years," said Todd Hill, former Milan assistant band director now jazz instructor at Northwest Miss. Community College. "Robert never sought the public view and always was willing to help any student that needed extra attention. If a child showed the desire to play, and was willing to try, with Robert's guidance, that child would flourish."

In love with music at an early age, thirteen year-old Robert would sneak out of the house after his parents went to sleep and walk down the railroad tracks to Hammon St. to listen through the windows to dance bands at the Cotton Club. "We'd stand outside and talk to the band leaders when they took their breaks," Hodge remembered. Learning from veteran musicians became a pastime. Hodge did the same thing with music legends Duke Ellington and Count Basie when they visited Nashville.

Hodge received music lessons from a series of strict instructors at Pearl High School, Tennessee State and the military. During World War II he served in Army bands playing sax and clarinet and backing celebrities like Josephine Baker and Ann Southern as they entertained troops.

The Milan High School band annually presents an award named in Hodge's honor. "Mr. Hodge always stood for all that right in music - inspiration as opposed to competition," said Todd Hill. "He could, and still does hear more with his ears than practically anybody I know. The students at Northwest Community College adore him. The members of our Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Men's National Music Fraternity made him an honorary member based on a lifetime of achievement."

Remembering Pete Evans "He instilled pride in us..."

Remembrances of Pete Evans by former students and band volunteers paint a picture of a man who profoundly impacted the lives of many. "He was the most influential person in my life," said David Koels, a 1980 Milan grad and band director at Humboldt High twelve years. "When I try to pattern myself after someone, it's Pete. He had a legitimate concern for kids; they were his number one priority. I never felt like Pete was doing it for himself; he was doing it for the kids."

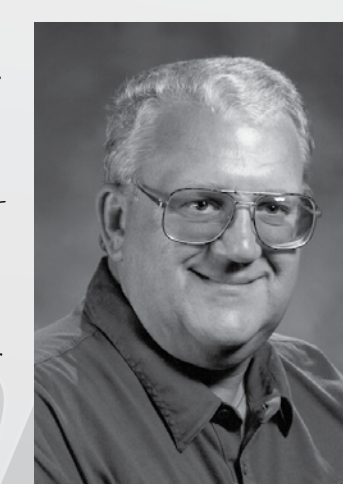
"As a band director he was a great motivator. He would say he was not a great musician, but he was successful through motivation of kids and putting in time. His approach was, 'I will put in whatever amount of time it takes to be successful.'"

Evans was highly regarded by other band directors, an "icon". Evans was president of the Tennessee Bandmasters' Association and developed the Milan Marching Festival into one of the longest-running traditions in the state.

Evans is remembered as a teacher, not just a band director. He helped initiate Milan High School's Academic Excellence banquet to recognize scholars. He and wife, Janie also coached Odyssey of the Mind teams. Pete helped with his church choir as well.

In the fall, 1996, Evans became superintendent of Milan schools, serving three school terms. His tenure as school director involved some controversy, ending in the summer, 1999 when a new school board bought out his contract. But with his students and those who worked with him, Evans instilled a lasting loyalty.

"He was a good person; he treated everybody fairly," recalled Al Brown, Band Parents president five years and a former school board member. "Pete had a way of gaining respect and inspiring people to do their best. He set high standards. He took a lot of students who were headed in the wrong direction and got them steered in the right direction."



Mr. Barry Lumpkin is known in the West Tennessee area as the past director at Harding Academy Memphis. While at Harding, his bands received numerous awards both locally and nationally. His bands have been selected to perform across the USA in such venues as Disney World, Florida; Tennessee Music Educators Association Convention; the Washington D.C. Mall, and the Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas, Texas.

At Harding, he developed and programmed a sequential instrumental learning system using computer and cassette recordings. Harding students who sought university scholarship were almost 100% successful. Twice Mr. Lumpkin was awarded Harding Academy's teacher of the year. He concluded his work with Harding in 2004 after 31 years leaving Harding with hundreds of awards and medals and reputation for excellence in performance.

In the 80's, Mr. Lumpkin developed Audition Manager Software for the Apple II to handle the data for large auditions such as West Tennessee Senior Honor Band auditions. The software is now available for Mac and PC and is available nationwide. www.AudMgr.com

He started a recording business in 1997 specializing in recording large ensembles: bands, choirs, and orchestras. A few of his clients have included Sewanee Summer Music Festival, Governor's School for the Arts, Tennessee All State, University of Memphis, University of Tennessee Martin, Lee University, River City Concert Band, Germantown Symphony Orchestra, and numerous educational ensembles. www.4cdrecordings.com

Mr. Lumpkin has served as president of the West Tennessee Schools Band and Orchestra Association and served as its data chair for auditions for many years. He has been clinician at TMEA and WTSBOA conferences, guest clinician and judge in the mid-south area. He served as MAYWE's conductor at the University of Memphis 2005-2006. He is a member of the American School Band Director's Association and Phi Beta Mu, both honor band director associations.

Mr. Lumpkin now works full time promoting Audition Manager Software, producing recordings, and has just launched www.MyRecordingSession.com, providing private band instrument lessons via the internet.

Dr. Ralph Hale was born in Scott, Mississippi on May 28, 1923. He and his brother Jack attended Cleveland Jr. and Sr. High School in Cleveland, Mississippi, where Ralph became a fine baritone horn player under the direction of Frank Wallick, director of the Cleveland High School Band. In 1942 Ralph enlisted in the US Navy and was a communications officer with the Pacific Fleet. He attained the rank of Lieutenant before being released from active duty in 1946, and remained active in the naval reserve.

He returned to Monticello, Arkansas, where he was band director for the local high school. At the urging of Mr. Jack Humphreys, the former Brother Raphael, Dr. Hale came to Memphis and began to win top awards in regional competitions throughout the area.

Dr. Hale was a gifted teacher and an accomplished musician. He played trombone with the Memphis Symphony as well as playing for many Memphis recording companies. He was band director at Memphis State College, and past president of the Tennessee Bandmasters Association, Phi Beta Mu, and West Tennessee School Band Association. He judged band competitions throughout the South and also conducted summer workshops in Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky and was a member of the National Band Masters Association. In 1971 the CBHS Band was selected as one of the top 100 instrumental music programs in the country by the American School Band Directors Association. In 1973 Ralph Hale was named as staff consultant to the International Music Festival in Salzburg, Austria and was a member of First Chair of America.

Ralph Hale was responsible for many innovative contributions to music education. He co-published a music scale book, developed a slide study to teach rhythmic patterns, and published several beginner and advanced band works with his brother Jack Hale. During his 37 years as Director, the CBHS Band won many awards, including first division awards in state concert festivals in each year of his direction, well over 150 students placed in Tennessee's All-State Band, and over 200 in the All-West Tennessee Band. He was elected to the Tennessee Band Masters Hall of Fame and Christian Brothers Hall of Fame.

