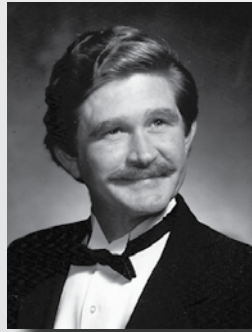


# HALL OF FAME HALL OF FAME HALL OF FAME HALL OF FAME

## DONALD ANTHONY



Dr. Donald Anthony served as Director of Bands at the University of Tennessee at Martin from 1979 to 2001. Originally from Humboldt, Tennessee, he attended the University of Mississippi and was named the "Outstanding Music Student" at Ole Miss in 1969. He went on to become a two-time graduate of the University of Mississippi and earn his doctorate in music education in 1981 from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Dr. Anthony's passion for teaching students was evident early in his career. He taught elementary beginners in Oxford for several years while still an undergraduate. Before joining UT Martin, Anthony was the Director of Bands at Greenwood High School in Greenwood, MS for ten years. He also served as conductor of the USA Band for the Bicentennial Tour of Europe in 1976, as well as conductor of the USA School Band and Chorus on tours of Europe in 1972, Canada in 1973, and Hawaii in 1974 and 1975.

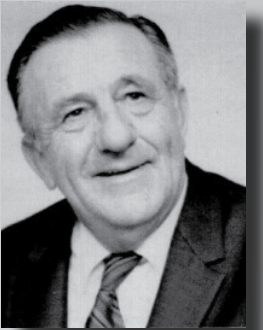
Perhaps Dr. Anthony will be best remembered by West Tennessee band students for creating the UT Martin Honor Band in 1979 and founding the UT Martin Concert Festival. He also served as coordinator and host for the annual Solo and Ensemble Contest at UT Martin.

Dr. Anthony served as assistant chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts from 1982 to 1985; acted as a West Tennessee Band and Orchestra Association representative; served on the Tennessee Music Educators Association Board for more than 20 years; and was a member of the Governor's School Board for the School of Fine and Performing Arts.

As a member of the national professional music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Dr. Anthony served as sponsor for the UT Martin chapter of Sinfonians. He was a member of the Music Educators National Conference, the American School Band Director's Association, and the College Band Directors National Association.

Dr. Anthony is survived by his wife, Mrs. Tina (Anthony) Cantrell, and his daughter, Dr. Sarah (Anthony) Petersen. His legacy continues in his many former students who have become band directors and music educators throughout the region.

## A. E. McCLAIN



A. E. McClain developed a love of music early in life and played in dance bands to augment his income during the depression. He devoted most of his adult life to music education in the Memphis and Shelby County school systems. Though he majored in Latin in college, "Mr. Mac" was mostly known for his accomplishments as a band director.

The premier bands he developed were at Nicholas Blackwell High School in Bartlett and at Central High School in Memphis from 1940 until 1960. Both progressed into outstanding musical organizations and consistently won superior ratings at regional and state festivals. Including on occasions, the coveted outstanding concert band award. The Central Band also participated in the Tri-State Music Festival in Oklahoma for several years and was named the outstanding concert band there in 1960.

He was a demanding leader who would not hesitate to dismiss a member who failed to "get with the program". At the same time he had a genuine affection for his "kids" which allowed for a strong bonding with them that was very evident in the rapport he had with them. His real talent and skill was inspiring and motivating young teenagers. That ability is consistently mentioned in the memories of his former students, including the following: "(He) was a great role model and mentor. He was exacting as a musician and director, who taught a sense of perfectionism in music; he also gave life-changing lessons in character and ethics to those of us who were lucky enough to be in his band."

Upon retirement, he continued to be very active as an adjudicator and facilitator at various band competitions and activities right up until his death. He died of heart failure in 1979 while serving as a judge at a Mississippi high school band festival. The annual award for the Outstanding Young Band Director in Mississippi is named in his honor.

Mr. Mac was the first inductee to the Memphis State University Bandmasters Hall of Fame in 1977, and in 2010, he was inducted into the Tennessee Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame.

## TONY BURRISS

Tony Burriss retired from teaching in 2007 after 30 years as a band director. He started his career in the Decatur County Tennessee School District teaching elementary, junior high, and high school band. In 1979, he moved to Union City, Tennessee, to take a job with the King Music Company and helped to start band programs in Rutherford, Greenfield, and Dresden, Tennessee. The following year he became band director at the newly opened Gibson County High School and where he remained for 11 years. In 1991, he became the band director at Peabody High School in Trenton, Tennessee, and spent the last 16 years of his career teaching band and music history. While at Peabody, the band won three State Division I Marching Band Championships.

Tony served as president of the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association and also on the board of the Tennessee Music Educators Association. While serving as president of WTSBOA, he, along with David Wood, were the first to secure the Memphis Convention Center and the Cannon Center for the Fine Arts as the yearly venue for the All West events.

Tony grew up in Morrow, Ohio, just outside of Cincinnati. His high school band director was R. Kent Hollimbach who studied composition with Nadia Boulanger in Paris, France. After high school he entered University of Tennessee - Martin and studied Music Education and percussion with Nancy Mathesen. He attributes his love of music to these two very special people.

Tony is currently serving in his second term as Mayor of City of Trenton, Tennessee, and he is an Elder and choir director at the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton. He has been married to his wife Kathi for 36 years and has two children, Emily and Ryan, and four grandchildren: Kizer, Katibeth, Andrew, and Kannon.

He currently is the conductor of the Gibson County Community Band, plays drums for the blues group, The Bluesberry Jam Band, and serves as a judge and adjudicator in the southeast region. Many of Tony's students have gone on to become band directors and music education teachers, including his daughter who is the middle school band director at Medina Middle School in Medina, Tennessee.



## MARION A. REITHEL



Marion Reithel was born and reared in Rose Claire, Illinois. He began his music career at an early age playing in the town band, alongside his father. In 1954 he graduated from Murray State University with a degree in Music Education and immediately took his one and only job as a music educator in the Union City School System.

He became director of the Junior High and High School Bands at Union City in the fall of 1954 and never left. He taught in the Union City System for 44 years...a remarkable feat in the world of music education.

During his long tenure at Union City, Marion became active in all aspects of the community. He started the Union City Civic Chorus, a Dixieland band, and the Instant Replay Big Band that remained together for over 20 years. Marion was also active as the choir director at a number of churches over the years.

His greatest accomplishment as a music educator would have to be his love for his students and his love for music education. In his 44 years at Union City Marion made band the "thing to do." He consistently maintained over 30 percent of the student body in the band program.

One of his former students and the current Director of Bands at Union City John Easley said, "Marion thought it was always the most important aspect to involve as many students as possible in the band program. When I came home to be his assistant, the one thing that he said was 'not all kids are going to be professionals in music, but they can all be advocates.'"

Because of Reithel's philosophy, the Union City Band Program still maintains 30 to 35 percent of the student body in the program today, and many local band supporters themselves are former students of the man the town calls "Union City's Mr. Music."

## CHARLES F. CLARK



Charles F. Clark received his early music education in the public schools of Tennessee. Born in Brownsville, he played clarinet in elementary school and continued this activity through high school. When his family moved to Memphis just before his senior year, he played in the Central High School Band and came under the tutelage of A. E. McClain. Attending college at The University of Louisiana at Monroe, he played in the band under Dr. Joe Barry Mullins. Also during college he took up the viola, which became his primary instrument for the remainder of his career.

As a teacher of band, Clark held positions in Natchez, MS, Jefferson County, KY, Jefferson City, TN, and Memphis. In 1971, he became a teacher in the brand new orchestra program of the Memphis City Schools, and helped grow that program through the years. He retired from his position at Overtown High School for the Performing Arts in 1991.

Not content to sit idle in retirement, Clark conducted the orchestra at Rhodes College and continued conducting a decade of musicals at Theatre Memphis. He was also interim choir director at Evergreen Presbyterian Church.

As a performer, Clark played in orchestras in Louisville, KY, and Ocala, FL, as well as several Tennessee groups: Knoxville, Jackson, and Germantown.

Clark served as Secretary-Treasurer of the West TN School Band and Orchestra Assn. from 1967 to 1999, with one short break in the interim. He served for several years on the Board of Directors of the TN Music Educators Assn., and for six years as Secretary of the National School Orchestra Assn. He also chaired the All-State Convention in Memphis. In addition to his membership in music education organizations, he is a member of Phi Mu Alpha

Sinfonia, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Pi Kappa Lambda music honor society.

Clark currently resides in Darien, GA.

## ART THEIL



Art Theil was born in Sandusky, Ohio, on August 31, 1931. Upon entering 7th grade, he began to play the clarinet. During his junior year in high school he was appointed drum major of the high school band. In the fall of 1949 he entered Capital University in Ohio. He became a member and officer of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity. While there, he met Mary Lou Snively, "...the finest clarinetist on campus, and a very pretty and talented coed." They were married in 1953.

Art's first teaching assignment was as the band director at Malvern High School in Ohio. After a short 2 months, he was drafted into the U. S. Army. He was able to return to his job after two years at Fort Sill. Following Malvern High School, Art taught at Sandy Valley High School, Carrollton High School, and Fremont High School in Ohio. Receiving numerous state and national accolades and awards. Art also received his Master's Degree from Vandercook College of Music in Chicago.

After Fremont, Mr. Theil became the band director at Florence State College, now The University of North Alabama. After 4 years, Art was hired as the Assistant Band Director and Saxophone Instructor at then Memphis State College. In 1974, Art was appointed Director of Bands and two years later was promoted to Associate Professor. In addition to duties with the Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, and Concert Band, Art was director of one of 4 nationally recognized jazz bands. The Marching band performed at The Superdome, Astrodome, and the Rose Bowl. The Wind Ensemble toured throughout the country.

In 1987, Art and Mary Lou retired to North Port, FL. Not wanting to be "totally" retired, they joined several community bands, and Art continued to play in many dance bands in the area. Mr. Theil was also involved in writing half-time shows for Sarasota Riverview High School Marching Band and serving as an adjunct teacher there for several years. He also served as choir director at several area church choir.