

Hall of Fame

2022 HONOREES

Samuel Frank Congiardo III



In 1983, Frank Congiardo received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from the University of Tennessee in Martin, TN. Congiardo studied all areas of percussion performance under Nancy Matheson in her Studio and Ensembles.

Congiardo served as the band director at Adamsville Jr/Sr High School in Adamsville, Tenn., from the year 1985 until his retirement in 2014. He comes from a long line of musicians with his father, brother and an uncle having served as band directors in West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association [WTSBOA] schools and another uncle having performed professionally with several Grammy award-winning artists.

Under Congiardo's direction, the Adamsville Jr/Sr High School band won eight Tennessee Division One State Marching Band Championships. In addition to the overall wins, the percussion sections won over one hundred caption awards. Congiardo has also designed percussion programs for nineteen state marching percussion sections.

Congiardo's high school programs consistently received superior ratings in Concert Festival Performance and Sight-Reading. His students received many superior ratings in Solo-Ensemble Festival won honors in All West and All State Tennessee bands. Several of these students have continued their education in music education and serve as band directors and instructors.

As he continues to teach students and serve bands across West Tennessee, Congiardo remains an affective educator and mentor to students. His ability to instill a love of music in others and teach valuable life lessons is what sets him apart. Congiardo also credits his success to the hard work and dedication of many of his students and assistants.

During his tenure as band director, Congiardo was a member of WTSBOA, McNairy County Education Association, Tennessee Education Association, National Education Association, Music Educators National Conference and Tennessee Music Education Association, and was an Innovative Percussion, Inc. percussion educator.

In addition to his involvements, Congiardo has adjudicated the WTSBOA's Solo and Ensemble, All West concert bands, All West jazz bands, All State percussion auditions and marching bands across Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi and Alabama.

Congiardo continues his passion for educating students by consulting with West Tennessee high school percussion sections, marching and concert bands and by private consultations. In addition to these involvements, Congiardo continues to perform professionally as a percussionist.

Combining his love for teaching and his desire to instill his love of music in others, Congiardo continues to make a lasting impact on every student he meets.

Mike Krepper



Mike Krepper was born in Beaumont, Texas in 1951 and his first musical experience was playing trumpet at Averill Elementary School. He then moved on to Beaumont High School where he played Saxophone under the baton of Jimmy Simmons. There he made the East Texas Honor Band every year and was able to play under Ralph Hale who was a guest clinician. Simmons was then hired as Assistant Director of Bands at Memphis State University and Mr. Krepper followed him there to study Saxophone. He continued his education at Lamar University studying Music Education with a minor in Mathematics. After college he taught at Elliston Baptist Academy for two years in Memphis before being asked to become the band director at Christian Brothers High School. Mr. Krepper agreed, but only if he could study under Ralph Hale for four years. Mr. Krepper found his years studying under Ralph Hale as instrumental in his success as a band director, comparing it to a doctorate degree of music education.

Mike Krepper began teaching at Christian Brothers in 1980. Under his direction the band would receive superior ratings at WTSBOA concert festival and would be the first high school band in Tennessee to record on compact disc. They performed for the 1995 Bandmasters Conference in Nashville, perform at Memphis in May with the opera singer Marguerite Piazza, and perform for Irish Dignitaries upon their arrival to Memphis for Silky Sullivan. He was also instrumental in organizing the Jazz Band and Historic Band programs that continue until this day. Mike Krepper was an active member in WTSBOA where he served as president in the 1980s and was a guest conductor at the All West Band clinic. Mr. Krepper would teach at Christian Brothers for twenty years before retiring from CBHS.

After teaching at Christian Brothers Mr. Krepper taught Orff music in the Memphis City Schools and kept up with a rigorous performing career in Memphis. He performed an essential roll with the Memphis Jazz Orchestra and the King Bee's, the house band at B.B. Kings. Over his career he has played with numerous groups and soloists including Natalie Cole, Aretha Franklin, Johnny Mathis, Kenny Rodgers, the Artie Shaw Orchestra, the Glen Miller Orchestra, and The Temptations, just to list a few.

Mr. Krepper lost his life after a short battle with cancer on Feb. 19, 2020. He inspired countless musicians to do their very best, and tolerated nothing but perfection. For many of his students he was the first person that challenged them to their very core. If you were in his bands, you knew that you had earned your seat one way: through hard work and practice. He never cut anyone slack, and positive reinforcement came seldom, but when it did you knew he meant every word. Mr. Krepper leaves behind him a tradition of musical excellence that continues at Christian Brothers High School, the Memphis Jazz Orchestra, countless other ensembles, and the WTSBOA.

Michael T. Congiardo



At his untimely death, Mr. Michael T. Congiardo was Director of Bands at Madison Academic High School in Jackson, TN. It was the last of his positions, but he had previously served as a director at West Middle School in Madison County, Gibson County [TN] High School, Marshall County [KY] High School, and Crittenden County [KY] High School. He earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Murray State University, and Master of Music degree in Saxophone Performance from the University of Alabama. He was truly from a family of teachers. His brother, Frankie [Frank, Jr], his father [Frank, Sr], and his uncle, Greg Stover, were all beloved music educators in West Tennessee.

Mike was that rare combination: a musician of incredible skill and artistry who had a tremendous passion for teaching. It was so evident in watching him conduct and teach his own students - they adored him, and what he brought to the classroom. He didn't just teach music, he taught great music. Mike's love and knowledge of great band literature and jazz standards were well known by anyone who ever had a conversation with him. He took well-deserved pride in his students' accomplishments, not just as musicians, but in their growth as persons. The world is a better place because Mike Congiardo was here. His gentle nature, quick wit, and infectious laugh are greatly missed by all. He had continued to play his well-worn alto sax with the Todd Hill Orchestra and in the Town and Gown Community Band at Murray State until the time of his death.

In his memory and honor, the Michael T. Congiardo Music Education Scholarship has been founded through the Department of Music and the Murray State University Foundation. Upon maturity, the endowed scholarship will be awarded to a deserving student from the WTSBOA region. To make a gift to the scholarship fund, send a check made payable to the "MSU Foundation" to the: Office of Development, Murray State University, 200 Heritage Hall, Murray, KY 42071.

Leigh Boyce



If the band and orchestra directors of West Tennessee ever had a mentor or matriarch, it would most assuredly be Ms. Leigh Boyce. A graduate of Arkansas State University with a Master's Degree in Clarinet Performance and serving as the Band Director at Trenton-Rosenwald Middle School and Peabody High School in Trenton TN since 1991, Leigh has always been admired for the level of accomplishments both she and her students have illustrated through each of her many years of amazing service to music and music education. Through her remarkable pedagogical sequencing her young musicians consistently performed at the highest level, including three State Division 1 marching championships. Ms. Boyce's students also regularly earned countless Superior Ratings in concert festivals and as solo musicians. Not surprisingly, her students continued their love for music into adulthood and well beyond, with several matriculating to earn numerous awards and honors. Several of Ms. Boyce's students have become highly respected professional musicians in their own rite; again, following directly and step by step in the path that their dedicated teacher had led them.

The inspiration Ms. Boyce instilled in her students, friends and family was truly remarkable and yet it didn't stop there. In her personal life, she always sought to share her gift and passion of music to each person she encountered. Graciously serving as the Choir Director of the First Methodist Church in Trenton for many years, her role of servant to music was not "what" she was, rather it was "who" she was. To her friends and colleagues, Ms. Boyce was

"Leigh". She was always their guiding voice of reason, a person of integrity and a passionate advocate for music education. In her amazingly generous nature, Leigh devoted years developing new, differentiated and unique musical opportunities for our students. During her tireless work with the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, she was always mindful of what was best for every student. Serving many years as the WTSBOA Secretary, her involvement was much more than the job description might imply. Working closely with numerous association presidents, school officials, event coordinators, and community leaders, Leigh instilled a sense of "teamwork" in all she encountered and provided all with a sense of calm not to be found elsewhere.

Through her devotion to music education, her practices, and most certainly her Christian love for all those around her, Leigh Boyce led us all by example. Even from a distance, Leigh's warm smile and infectious laughter were the immediate signal that you were in the presence of an amazing and unique human-being. Leigh loved everyone for their good and for their potential; she treasured us all. Leigh remained current in her students' lives long after their departure from her tutelage. She made use of every method possible to stay in contact with her students, always available for conversation and of course dependably at hand with the warmth of love that only Leigh could offer.

Though we are each saddened by her sudden departure, and we no longer have our Matriarch with which to consult or converse, Leigh is forever in our hearts and in our minds. She continues to lead us as we all remain diligent to her passion of bringing quality music-education and life-lessons to the children of Tennessee. The legacy of Ms. Leigh Boyce is forever embedded in each life she impacted and will remain so for many generations to come. She was our colleague, teacher, mentor and friend. We are each a better person for having had her light to shine upon us. Rest our Honored Sister, you will be so missed but never forgotten.

James E. Robertson, Sr.



James is a native Memphian and retired Instrumental Music Director for Memphis City Schools / Shelby County Schools with service of 31 years. James has taught students at both Middle School and High School levels. His last assignment was director at Snowden Middle School where he completed 26 years of service. During his tenure, his bands participated in WTSBOA events including All West Tennessee Band Tryouts and Clinics, Concert Band Festivals, Solo and Ensemble Festivals and Jazz Band Festivals. James and his bands gained national attention by participating in festivals in Atlanta, GA, St. Louis, MO, Orlando, FL, Dallas, TX, Williamsburg, VA, and Chicago, IL. The bands scored Superior Ratings in Marching Band, Concert Band, Drumline, and Jazz Band competitions.

James has also been a recording and touring musician for over 40 yrs. where he is a member of NARAS and Memphis Federation of Musicians Local 071. He has performed live or recorded with artists such as, the Jackson Southernaires, Pilgrim Jubilee, Rance Allen, the Williams Brothers, Shirley Caesar, Al Green, Isaac Hayes, Eddie Floyd, Sam & Dave, Denise LaSalle, Johnny Taylor, Shirley Brown, Z Z Hill, Melissa Etheridge and many others. James has performed on the soundtracks of several movies such as, "Great Balls of Fire", "The Client", "Consenting Adults", "Shaft 2000", "Quarry", and "Bluff City Law". He is currently the Percussionist for the Temple of Deliverance COGIC Orchestra.

James is married to his wife, Linda of 39 years where he enjoys being a proud father and grandfather.