



EARL DUNN emeritus faculty, Ball State University

Earl Dunn, conductor – music educator – administrator. His career included teaching in the public schools of Iowa and as Director of Bands at Ball State University and the University of Alabama. A native of Iowa, he graduated from the University of Northern Iowa. During the period in which he completed his graduate work, Dunn served as director of the Marching Band and assistant director of the concert bands at UNI.

Dunn was Director of Bands at Ball State University from 1957 to 1969, and during that period guided the re-organization and development of the bands in all facets of wind performance until they reached regional and national recognition as "The Pride of Mid-America."

During his 1969 to 1972 tenure at the University of Alabama, Dunn developed an enhanced concert band program with great emphasis on the performance of 20th Century music by a newly-organized University Wind Ensemble. He also planned the state's first Inter-Collegiate Band, the first joint musical project and activity in the state involving students from both the traditional black and white universities.

Dunn served as President (1974-1976) of the National Band Association, the world's largest band organization, and held the position of Editor of the Association's quarterly magazine for many years.

In addition to his university and state/national association duties, Dunn has served as an adjudicator in over 40 states and foreign countries and as a guest conductor in over 200 festivals.

In 1980 Phi Beta Mu, a national honorary band fraternity, presented Dunn the Outstanding Band Master Award, and in 1987 he was elected to the fraternity's Hall of Fame. He has been honored as a recipient of the "Campus Headliner Award," an honor given to faculty recognized for their outstanding service to Ball State University, and has also received the Citation of Excellence Award from the National Band Association. In 1990 he was presented the prestigious Hoosier Musician of the Year award by the Indiana Music Educators Association.

In 2004, at the December National Band Association National Meeting in Chicago, Dunn was presented the AWAPA Award, an honor awarded to those who have made truly significant and outstanding contributions to the furthering of the excellence of bands and of band music. The nine-inch silver AWAPA figure is the "Oscar" of the band world.

Dunn was associate director of the Ball State University School of Music from 1972 to 1983, and, during the 1983-1984 academic year, served as Acting Director. For ten years he was also Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Indiana Music Educators Association.

Dunn retired in July, 1985, and, with his wife, Liz, for many years enjoyed playing golf and showing their breed of dog, the Bullmastiff, throughout the United States. The couple enjoyed 59 years of marriage prior to her death in August, 2009.