



Max R. Jones

Born on September 26, 1945, Max Jones got an early start in music: the son of a Methodist minister, he started piano lessons in 2nd grade so he could go over to the church and play the piano and organ. He was started on tenor saxophone in 4th grade in Winamac, IN by Charles Byfield and continued both piano and saxophone lessons through high school in Princeton, IN. As a sophomore at Princeton he was asked to play bassoon, an instrument he continued to play in concert band at Ball State along with tenor sax in the marching band. He earned his B.M. in Education from Ball State as an organ major in 1967 followed by his M.M. in Education in 1969.

His teaching career began at Monroe Central HS (1968-70) followed by 13 years at Winchester Community HS (1970-83), two years at Southport HS, and 21 years at Concord High School in Elkhart (1985-2006) where he served as Director of Music. Jones retired in 2006 after 38 years of public school music education in Indiana. His marching bands were among the finest in the nation, placing first in the Indiana State School Music Association state marching band competition eight times, and state runners-up 9 times. Jones' Winchester Marching Band, "the Force", won the prestigious 1977 Great Bands of the Orange Bowl national championship. Over the years, his Winchester and Concord marching bands performed numerous times in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, the Orange Bowl Parade in Miami, the Fiesta Bowl Parade in Phoenix, the Hollywood Christmas Parade and the Gimble's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia.

Symphonic bands directed by Mr. Jones at Concord High School and Southport High School were state finalists in the Indiana State School Music Association concert band state finals many times during his tenure, placing as high as third on several occasions. All of his bands consistently earned 'Superior' ratings at ISSMA contests.

Jones served as President of the Indiana State School Music Association four times during his career, President of Phi Beta Mu Gamma Chapter, and was a member of IBA, IMEA, Purdue University Bands Advisory Board, the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade Committee, and Assistant Coordinator for the Indiana State Fair Band Day. In 1991, he received the Outstanding Bandmaster Award, and in 2004 was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

In 2006 Max Jones began his second career, at Purdue University where he works as Recruitment, Education and Outreach Coordinator and Instructor for the Purdue University Bands including duties as assistant director of the marching band, and director of the Boiler Brass (men's basketball pep band).

Mr. Jones and his wife Dianne, a retired elementary music teacher, reside in Lafayette and are the parents of son Gavin – a 2005 graduate of Purdue University and Freelance Photographer currently working in New York City.