



## Hal A. Meurer

Hal was born on May 3, 1925 in Terre Haute, Indiana, the son of the late Robert and Helen Meurer. He graduated from Terre Haute Gerstmeyer High School in 1943. During World War II, Hal was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Band (1943-1945), playing numerous engagements in New York City.

Hal was a vocal major at Indiana State, graduating with a B.S. in Music Education in 1948 and was then a graduate assistant with the ISU bands for one year. He began his teaching career in Jasper, Indiana (1949-1953). He was band director at Lincoln High School in Vincennes, Indiana from 1953 - 1963. In 1963-64, he was assistant director of the Purdue University marching band and concert band director. From 1964 to 1973, he was director of the Ben Davis High School Band in Indianapolis, Indiana. Hal also directed bands at Washington and Howe High Schools in Indianapolis.

With the exception of his first year of State Fair competition (1953 when Jasper placed 6<sup>th</sup>), bands under his direction always placed in the top five – a record stretching 25 years. His bands won State Fair five times in the hey-day of the State Fair: Vincennes in 1955 and 1962 and Ben Davis in 1964, 1966 and 1967. Bands and orchestras under his direction received over fifty first division contest ratings. The Ben Davis and Howe Bands performed concerts and marching band competitions in seven European countries. The Ben Davis band won two first place prizes at the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Holland in 1970.

Hal served as president of the Indiana Bandmasters Association and as president of Phi Beta Mu and was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Indiana bandmasters in 1989. Hal's bands were honored to perform at the Canadian Bandmasters Association, the Music Educator National Conference, the Mid East National Band Clinic and the Indiana State Music Educators Conference.

The Vincennes Band represented Indiana at the World Premiere of "The Music Man" movie in 1962; and performed at Soldier's Field at the Chicagoland Music Festival in 1958. Hal's bands also played for two U.S. Presidents. Bands under Hal's direction have marched in the Rose Bowl Parade, Orange Bowl Parade, the Sugar Bowl Parade, the Kentucky Derby Parade, Indianapolis 500 Parades and the Kiwanis International Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, as well as, the New York World's Fair and Expo '67 in Montreal, Canada.

Hal was active in the American School Band Directors Association, serving as chairperson of the National Band Association, and was program chairperson for the Indiana Music Educator Clinic. Hal directed church choirs for several years in Vincennes and Speedway, Indiana. He was a member of Tabernacle Christian Church, Franklin, Indiana. He passed away at age 83 on August 24, 2008.