



Robert G. Miller

Robert Miller is a graduate of Peru, IN High School with B.S. and M.A degrees from Ball State University. At Peru High School Robert was a student of James Noble (Gamma Chapter 1955) who was his musical inspiration. Mr. Miller was appointed Director of Bands and Director of Music for the secondary schools for the Valparaiso Community Schools in January of 1958 where he taught until his retirement. Teaching duties included conducting the “A” Band, Orchestra, and co-directing “C” Band. During his tenure the “A” Band was a State Finalist every year in the ISSMA State Concert Band Contest (originating in 1985) and won State Championships in 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995. Valparaiso Orchestras under his direction were state finalists in 1992, 1994, and 1995. The “A” Band also performed concerts at the Indiana Music Educator’s Conference (five times), the MENC National Conference (twice), and at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic.

Several former graduates are currently earning a living playing and/or teaching music. These include a member of the Chicago Symphony and the United States Air Force Band in Washington, D.C. Band has been an important part of Valparaiso High School for many years and was an important factor in the school’s selection for the Governor’s Excellence in Education Award and the Excellence in Education Award from the United States Department of Education. Valparaiso High School was selected in the very first year of this program.

Mr. Miller served as President of the Northern Indiana School Band Orchestra and Vocal Association (NISBOVA) in 1970-71, and was later heavily involved in the formation of the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA), serving on the Merger Committee which formed the current state organization. He also served on the ISSMA State Board from 1981-1987 and was the first chairman of the required music selection committee for concert band music in 1981-83. Miller served as President of the Indiana Bandmasters Association in 1982-83. He has received various awards: Outstanding Alumnus (Ball State School of Music); Citation of Achievement (BSU Alumni Association); the “MAC” Award (School Musician); Outstanding Bandmaster Award (Phi Beta Mu); Legion of Honor Award (Bandworld); Outstanding High School Music Educator of the Year (IMEA); Sudler Order of Merit (John Philip Sousa Foundation); Citation of Excellence (National Bandmasters Association); and the James Calvert Outstanding Music Educator Award (Indiana Wind Symphony).

Upon his retirement, Miller received the state of Indiana’s highest award, being named “Sagamore of the Wabash” by Governor Evan Bayh. He also received the “Hall of Fame” award from Phi Beta Mu. An annual scholarship award has been established in his name for an outstanding band graduate. Miller remains active as a highly respected concert band adjudicator for ISSMA. Robert Miller currently lives in Sheridan, Wyoming where he plays trumpet in several local music groups and enjoys his hobby of restoring old cars. His four children, Elaine, Jim, Carolyn, and David live in Indiana, Wisconsin, and Italy.