



Gary R. Wishmeyer

Gary Wishmeyer is an award winning band director who taught in high schools in Iowa, New Jersey and Indiana. During his 40 year teaching career, Gary has earned almost every honor and held almost every office available to an Indiana music educator. He has served as President of the Indiana School Music Association, the Indiana State School Music Association, the Indiana All-State Music Festivals Association, Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Honorary Fraternity, and has also served as the Educational Director of the Indiana Music Educators Association.

Mr. Wishmeyer has earned the ISSMA Presidential Award in 1981 and 1991, three ISSMA Distinguished Service Awards, 12 Ben Davis High School Senior Choice Awards, 12 Who's Who Among American Teachers Award, 8 Who's Who in Music Education Awards, Phi Beta Mu's Outstanding Bandmaster Award, and in 2006 Gary was inducted into the Indiana Bandmaster's Hall of Fame by Phi Beta Mu.

Concert Bands under his baton have performed by invitation at several colleges and music festivals in the Midwest including Butler University, the University of Northern Iowa, Luther College, the University of Iowa, Northeast Missouri State University, the Iowa Bandmasters Convention, and the Indiana Music Educators Convention.

During this tenure at Snider High School in Ft. Wayne he built the band program from 98 members to over 260 members and established the band as an excellent concert program and a highly competitive marching band by winning the NISBOVA Sweepstakes Award.

At Lafayette Jefferson High School Gary was able to build their band program not only in numbers, but in quality as well. The Jeff Band made guest appearances at the IMEA Convention, numerous jazz festivals including being a finalist at the Purdue University Jazz Festival and placing 3rd at the Days Inn Marching Band Festival in Atlanta, Georgia.

While at Ben Davis, "Wish," as he is affectionately called, made 12 Finalist appearances in the ISSMA State Concert Band competition. "Wish" marched with his band in 3 Tournament of Roses Parades, 3 Fiesta Bowl Parades, the King Orange Jamboree Parade, and the Inaugural Parade for President Reagan. The Marching Giants placed in the top 3 nineteen times at the ISSMA State Class A Finals including 7 State Championships during his tenure. The Marching Giants were also a 5 time Bands of America Finalist including National Runner-up and National Open Division Champion in 1983.

Gary has judged in over 20 States for Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, and the Central States Judging Associations plus numerous ISSMA events in Indiana. He is in great demand as a clinician and guest conductor around the State of Indiana and the Midwest for concert and marching bands. Mr. Wishmeyer is currently serving as Supervisor of Music Education Student Teachers for Indiana University, Bloomington. Gary is married to the former Pamela Smith, founder of the Indiana State Color Guard Association and first inductee into its Hall of Fame. Pam and Gary are the proud parents of two grown children: Shayla and Dustin.