



MARK HINDSLEY

Mr. Hindsley was born on a farm near Union City, Ind., and took up the cornet as a young boy, playing in the school and town bands. "There wasn't too much musical education available in such a small town, but he was born into a musical family and he was a smart kid," said his wife. "He was largely self-taught." He taught himself so well that he joined the Indiana University band as a first-chair cornet player after graduating from high school at 15.

Mr. Hindsley was a Phi Beta Kappa music graduate of Indiana University "with high distinction", where he wrote the school's "Loyalty Song." He received a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Indiana University before going on to earn a Master of Arts in Music degree there in 1927. Hindsley began his career at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he served as band director and music instructor until 1929.

From 1929 to 1934 he was Director of Instrumental Music in of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, conducting the high school bands and orchestras, with first divisions in concert and marching at national band contests. Mr. Hindsley joined the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1934 as the assistant director of bands to the legendary Albert Austin Harding. He was the director of the Marching Illini where he developed marching routines for the football band that are still used. He was also conductor of the First Regimental Band, with wind instrument teaching in the School of Music.

His teaching duties at Illinois was interrupted by military service from 1942 to 1946 where he was staff music officer of the Army Air Forces Training Command, and for the last six months band and orchestra conductor and teacher of conducting at the Biarritz American University in France, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel and earning the Army Commendation Medal. Succeeding Albert Austin Harding as Director of Bands at Illinois in 1948, he was active in that position and as Professor of Music until his retirement in 1970.

A past president of both the [College Band Directors National Association](#) (1947) and the American Bandmasters Association (1957-58), Dr. Mark Hindsley has appeared throughout the nation and in other countries as guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator, and on the summer staffs of many other colleges and universities. His recordings of the University of Illinois Concert Band and his transcriptions of historical masterpieces are highly acclaimed at home and abroad. He is the author of seven books and more than 40 magazine articles on instrumental music. He was awarded the honorary degree Doctor of Music by his alma mater, Indiana University. Among his many other honors are a Citation of Merit from the University of Illinois Foundation; Fellow of the International Institute of Arts and Letters; the Edwin Franko Goldman award of the American School Band Directors Association; the Outstanding Bandmaster award of [Phi Beta Mu](#); the Distinguished Service to Music medal of [Kappa Kappa Psi](#); election to the Academy of Wind and Percussion Arts, with the "Oscar" of the [National Band Association](#); Hall of Fame of Distinguished Band

Conductors; Meritorious Service Award of the Illinois Music Educators Association; recipient of the Sudler Medal of the Order of Merit from the John Philip Sousa Foundation; Historic Roll of Honor of High School Bands 1920-1960; profiled as one of the seven legends in Music Education in the 50th Anniversary issue of *The Instrumentalist*; installed in the Ohio Pioneer Band Director Hall of Fame; and named Honorary Life President of the American Bandmasters Association in 1996.

In addition to his conducting skills he became a skilled music transcriber, composer, author, scholar, and educator. Former Illinois band director James Keene said: "Mark Hindsley made innovations in marching band techniques and drill writing were decades ahead of the time."

"He didn't think there was enough good band music published, so he took classical music and transcribed it to fit the orchestra instruments," according to Mrs. Hindsley. He made more than 75 transcriptions, many of which were recently recorded by the University of Illinois band department in a three-CD set called the "The Hindsley Legacy."

During his career, Mr. Hindsley wrote eight books on music and music education. He also spent many years experimenting with wind instrument intonation, which led to changes in the manufacturing of several wind instruments in the United States, France and England.

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Among the long list of musical honors Mr. Hindsley received were an honorary doctorate in music from Indiana University, induction into the College Band Directors National Association Hall of Fame and induction into the Ohio Pioneer Band Directors' Hall of Fame.

After his retirement, Mr. Hindsley continued to serve as a guest conductor, musical contest judge, clinician and transcriber.