



Darrel L. Horton

Born October 1, 1939 in West Jefferson, Ohio, Darrel L. Horton grew up in the shadow of The Ohio State University and their band program. He began taking clarinet lessons in the 5th grade on a metal one-piece metal clarinet and was promoted to the West High School band while in his first year of Junior High. He moved to Indianapolis during his freshman year where he attended and graduated from Broad Ripple H.S. in 1957 before heading to Jordan College of Music/Butler University where he earned his Bachelors Degree in 1961 and later his Masters in 1964. While at Jordan College of Music he formed a jazz band which became part of the curriculum after his graduation.

Mr. Horton began his teaching career at Wilkinson H.S. from 1961-63. From there he went to Northwest High School (1963-74) as Band Director and Department Chairman where he developed outstanding marching, and jazz bands. While at Northwest, he hosted the first Indiana All-State Marching Contest in 1973. From there he moved to Ben Davis High School, again serving as Band Director and Department Chairman from 1974-1984.

Under his chairmanship the method of assigning students to bands at Ben Davis was changed resulting in all five concert bands receiving consistent high marks at concert competitions. He also converted the nationally known marching band from a parade style band to a field show competition band, earning three ISSMA Class A championships during his tenure: 1976, 1977, 1982. In 1983 the Marching Giants were BOA Division champion and 2nd place overall at Bands of America Grand Nationals finals.

Mr. Horton served for many years as marching instructor for the Hook's Indiana All-State Marching Band. He served music education as an ISSMA zone representative and twice served as program chairman for the IMEA State Convention. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Beta Mu, MENC, IMEA, and FBA.

In 1984 Mr. Horton moved to Florida where he taught at South Plantation High School in Plantation, Florida until his retirement in 1997. Darrel Horton was inducted into the Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame in 1997.