



Frederick C. Ebbs, 1916 – 1984

Frederick C. Ebbs, born January 13, 1916 in Amherst, Ohio, served as Director of Bands at Indiana University from 1967 until his retirement as Department Chairman in 1982. He was also the director of the IU Summer Music Clinics from 1974 to 1984. During his tenure at IU, he directed many different bands, including the Marching Hundred and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Mr. Ebbs received his B.S.M. degree from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1937 and his M.M. degree from the University of Michigan in 1940. He served as supervisor of music in the Rittman (Ohio) Public Schools and moved on to become director of the Hobart (Indiana) High School Band from 1940 to 1948. During the summers of 1947 and 1953 he was a guest instructor and visiting lecturer at the Universities of Michigan and Illinois, respectively. From 1948 to 1954, he was Director of Bands at his alma mater, Baldwin-Wallace College. From there he was hired as Director of Bands at the University of Iowa (1954-1967), and served there until Dean Wilfred C. Bain invited him to teach at Indiana University in 1967.

He was honored in 1957 and 1974 with the Alumni Merit and Achievement Awards from Baldwin-Wallace College, and in 1969 he received the Edwin Franko Goldman Award from the American School Band Directors Association. During his energetic career, Mr. Ebbs was a clinician, guest conductor for all-state/regional high schools and college bands, adjudicator, and director of many workshops, conferences, and summer camps. His travels took him to 32 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and Japan. One of the highlights of his illustrious career was conducting the Symphonic Band on a three-month concert tour of Europe. The band's concerts won high praise from music critics in Portugal, Spain, and the former Soviet Union. Mr. Ebbs took two trips to the Rose Bowl with the University of Iowa and the Indiana Marching Hundred in 1967.

Mr. Ebbs was a member of the American Bandmasters Association, College Band Directors National Association, Phi Beta Mu, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda, Kappa Kappa Psi, Indiana Bandmasters Association, and the Music Educators National Conference. He received the distinct honor of being inducted into the National Band Association's Hall of Fame of Distinguished Conductors in 1987, posthumously. He is one of only a few conductors to be named to the Hall of Fame, the ranks of which include John Philip Sousa; Edwin Franko Goldman, founder of the American Bandmasters Association; and Mark Hindsley, Indiana University graduate and director emeritus at the University of Illinois. Ebbs is remembered for his devotion to his students and his dedication to his craft. Ray Cramer, former director of bands at Indiana University, described him as "one of the founding fathers of the American band movement."

Mr. Ebbs retired as Department of Bands Chairman in 1982 and stayed on the faculty of the School of Music until August of 1984. He died on September 25, 1984, of cancer.