



JANIS MARIE STOCKHOUSE 1955 - 2024

Janis Stockhouse...Courageous...Passionate...Adventurous...Humble...Caring...Dedicated...Magical

Janis Stockhouse, one of Indiana's most renowned music educators, passed away at age 69 on December 23, 2024. She retired in 2019 after 38 years as Director of Bands at Bloomington High School North in Bloomington, Indiana. Prior to that position she served for four years as the North Vermillion Jr-Sr High School Band and Choral Director in Cayuga, Indiana. She received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where she studied trumpet with William Adam and Louis Davidson. She earned her Master of Music degree at Indiana State University. Her mentors include David N. Baker, Ray E. Cramer, Ron Modell, Stephen W. Pratt, William Revelli, and Dominic Spera.

At Bloomington North, Ms. Stockhouse conducted the Symphonic Band, Intermediate Concert Band, Advanced & Lab Jazz Ensembles, and taught AP Music Theory. She also served as assistant director for the Cougar Marching Band, directed the Basketball Pep Band and oversaw the Jazz Combo program.

During her tenure at Bloomington High School North, the Advanced Jazz Ensemble performed at the Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic in 1982, 1987, 2008, and 2018. Her jazz bands and combos also performed at the International Association for Jazz Education and the Jazz Education Network annual conventions on seven occasions. In 2002, the jazz ensemble and top concert band toured Europe for two weeks of concerts culminating with performances at the North Sea Jazz Festival and the Mid-Europe Music Clinic. The BHSN Cougar Marching Band has appeared in the Tournament of Roses Parade as well as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Bloomington North's Symphonic Band qualified for the ISSMA State Concert Finals a remarkable 33 out of 35 years with two state championships and 30 top eight finishes.

Over the course of her life, Ms. Stockhouse was a devoted music educator who inspired thousands of students, many of whom went on to careers in music. Janis mentored more than 60 student teachers over her 38 years at Bloomington North. Many are carrying on her legacy in excellent music programs throughout the United States and world. No doubt the values that she embodied, shaped who they have become and how they have approached their work and lives. Countless other music educators proudly call her their mentor. It's hard to imagine the world without Janis. She honored and celebrated the past, faced the future with optimism and vision, while living very much in the present, making the most of each and every moment.

Beginning with her membership in the first class of Indiana University's Marching Hundred to admit women in 1973, she is remembered as a pioneer in a field traditionally dominated by men. She was a "trailblazer" who inspired young women while rising above the label of being a "female band director."

Her 2004 co-authored book entitled *JAZZWOMEN; Conversations with 21 Musicians*, published by Indiana University Press, celebrated the often unrecognized contributions of women in jazz.

Ms. Stockhouse was a member and two-time president of the Indiana Bandmasters Association, a member of the Indiana Music Educators Association/National Association for Music Education, a member of the Jazz Educators Network, and was a board member for the International Association for Jazz Education. As a member of Phi Beta Mu, she was president-elect at the time of her death. She was named the 1997 Outstanding Music Educator of the year by IMEA, the 2005 Educator of the Year by the Bloomington Area Arts Council, was recipient of the 2007 Al Cobine Award, and was presented with the 2007 Outstanding Bandmaster Award by Phi Beta Mu, Gamma Chapter. In 2015 she was presented with the John LaPorta Outstanding Jazz Educator Award, and in 2016 the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation named her the David Baker Indiana Jazz Educator of the year. In 2020 she was selected for induction in the Indiana Bandmasters Hall of Fame, and in 2021 she was presented with the Medal of Honor Award by The Midwest Clinic in Chicago.

In her retirement, she taught the MCCSC 6th grade beginning band program and was president of the board of directors of the Southern Indiana Wind Ensemble while also playing trumpet and serving as the assistant conductor. She founded and directed the Bloomington Jazz Orchestra, served as librarian and played trombone in the Bloomington Community Band, and was president of B'Town Jazz.

Those who knew her said that Ms. Stockhouse had a distinctive teaching style, one that recognized and played to students' individual strengths. She could identify something special in every student.

Rest in Peace Janis, knowing that your legacy is far reaching and will live on for years to come through those whose lives you've touched.