

PHIL A. THOMPSON

Dr. Thompson is Professor Emeritus of Music from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. From 1978 to 2013, he taught applied saxophone, clarinet and flute, and directed the Winthrop University Jazz Ensemble. He holds degrees from East Carolina University (B.M.E.), The University of Michigan (M.M. Multiple Woodwinds) and The University of North Texas (D.M.A. Multiple Woodwinds). His principal woodwind teachers include Jim Riggs, Donald Sinta, Eddie Daniels and Albert Regni. Thompson has performed hundreds of concerts and jazz clinics on high school and university campuses throughout the United States and Europe. In 1994, he received the James Pickney Kinard/Lee Wicker Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching from Winthrop University and, in 1996, the Outstanding Music Alumni Award from East Carolina University.

Thompson remains very active as a performing musician in Charlotte, North Carolina and throughout the United States. He has performed in concert or on tour with artists including: *Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, Clark Terry, Sarah Vaughan, Nancy Wilson, Ray Charles, Harry Connick, Jr., Natalie Cole, Patti Austin, Martina McBride, Barry Manilow, Linda Ronstadt, Dionne Warwick, Lou Rawls, Frankie Valli, The Temptations and the Four Tops (European tours), The Spinners, Andy Williams, Bob Hope and the orchestras of Glen Miller, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey*. He has also served over 40 years as saxophonist with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

As a multiple woodwinds specialist, Thompson has performed on flutes, clarinets, saxophones and oboe with several dozens of New York Broadway national tours such as: *Mean Girls, Aladdin, Newsies, Little Mermaid, Motown the Musical, Beautiful the Carole King Musical, Phantom, Wicked, Kinky Boots, Shrek, Billy Elliot, Mary Poppins, Young Frankenstein, The Producers, Spamalot, Hairspray, 42nd Street, Chicago, Beauty and the Beast, West Side Story, Radio City Rockettes and The Rat Pack is Back*. Thompson also currently serves as musicians' contractor for Blumenthal Performing Arts and the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority.

Otherwise, Doc's time is shared with wife Diane, 5 grandchildren and his church as deacon chair. Retirement is, indeed, grand!

Jim Warrick retired after thirty-eight years of teaching jazz, concert and marching bands at the high school and college levels. He was the Director of Jazz Ensembles at New Trier High School (Winnetka, IL- public school in the northern suburbs of Chicago) for twenty-eight years teaching four 24-four piece curricular jazz ensembles that he rehearsed during the school day and eight combos that rehearsed each week. He completed his Bachelors and Masters Degree at Ohio University (Athens, OH), and his residency and coursework for a Ph.D. in Music Education at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN). He has directed the Symphonic Band at Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL) and is currently the jazz ensemble director for Lee University in Cleveland, Tn, where he also teaching Intro to Music Business.

At New Trier High School, Jim created the internationally known Frank Mantooth Jazz Festival now in its thirty-sixth year. The non-competitive daylong event called by Downbeat magazine, "The most educational festival of its kind anywhere," brings more than 1,300 junior high and high school jazz students in fifty jazz ensembles together to perform and receive private masterclasses by ten nationally-known jazz educators. The festival ends with an evening performance by the "New Trier Jazz Ensemble I", followed by a professional jazz ensemble such as the Duke Ellington Orchestra, the Woody Herman Orchestra directed by Woody Herman (twice), the Count Basie Orchestra (five times), Gordon Goodwin's Phat Band, the Airmen of Note (Air Force Jazz Ensemble/Washington, D.C.) and the Dizzie Gillespie Big Band directed by Dizzie Gillespie, among many others. Also performing with his high school ensemble over the years has been Clark Terry, Bob Mintzer, Dizzy Gillespie, Buddy Rich, Woody Herman, Maynard Ferguson, Jeff Coffin, Wayne Bergeron, Mercer Ellington, and the rhythm sections of the Count Basie Orchestra and the Tito Puente Orchestra. Believing that his students are the best trophies a teacher can achieve, his jazz ensembles never participated in competitive music events.

Jim's jazz ensembles have performed six times at the Midwest International Band Clinic, at several IAJE or JEN conventions. He has guest conducted sixteen all-state jazz ensembles. His New Trier HS students have received thirty-nine Downbeat Student Musician Awards, including the "Best High School Jazz Ensemble" award four times. Jim is the only public high school educator selected for Downbeat magazine's "Jazz Education Hall of Fame." For the past fifteen years Jim has been the individual who selected the Downbeat magazine Student Musician Awards recipients for public and private high school and junior high jazz combos.

He now lives in Ocoee with his wife, Judy, where they recently built their dream house on a mountain top overlooking the Cherokee National Forest near whitewater rafting on the Ocoee River. They regularly see black bears near their yard and nightly hear the wail of coyotes politely answered by their Yellow Lab named "God's Amazing Gracie" who recently celebrated her fifth birthday. Jim has been a Chaplain at the Bradley County Jail and at the DuPage County Jail (Wheaton), the Illinois State Prison (Joliet), and the Louisiana State Prison (Angola).

If you are interested in purchasing or commissioning jazz, marching or concert band music from Jim, visit his website.... JimWarrickMusic.com.