

Jerry Lowe is enjoying retirement after 43 years in Music Education. (BME 1978, University of Cincinnati C.C.M.; MM 2011 Instrumental Conducting- Winthrop University). After 15 years teaching in the Washington D.C. area, he relocated with his family to Charlotte- accepting the band director position at Northwest School of the Arts when it opened in 1993. He taught there through the spring of 2004 and took a music education position in Lincoln County (N.C.) Schools, before returning to NWSA in the fall of 2016. Besides teaching concert band throughout his career, Jerry taught jazz band, chorus, orchestra, music theory, marching band and percussion ensemble. His performing groups consistently received high ratings at adjudicated events on local, regional, state and interstate levels, including several 1st place awards in the southeast U.S.

Over his career Jerry has adjudicated concert band, jazz band and marching band events in several states. He received the "Award of Excellence" in 2016 from the South Central District of the North Carolina Bandmasters Association, and also was voted "Teacher of the Year" in Lincoln County the same year. In 2008 he was honored by UNC-Greensboro with the "Jazz Educator of the Year" award.

Jerry enjoys conducting concert and jazz band clinics, and teaches summer concert, jazz and marching band camps in North and South Carolina. He was Chairperson for the NCMEA West Region Jazz Music Performance Adjudication (M.P.A.) event for 17 years, and served as NCMEA State Jazz Section Chair from 2004-06. His professional memberships including the North Carolina Bandmasters Association, NCMEA, JEN, and NAFME.

While serving as the NWSA Director of Bands, the High School Jazz Band had the honor of performing at the 2017 and 2001 NCMEA Conferences. The 2001 group also served as the clinic band for noted Jazz educator and composer Dean Sorenson. Jerry is still active with NCMEA and is presently is serving on the Journal Task Force.

Notable NWSA alumni include Grammy Award winning jazz artist- Ashlin Parker (New Orleans Jazz Orchestra & Ellis Marsalis Quartet), and two Grammy award nominees- Dr. Michael D'Angelo (The North Texas Univ. 1 O'clock Band) and Darryl Yokley- recognized in 2018 with his "Pictures At An African American Exhibition" Jazz Recording. Other notable alumni from NWSA include Adrian Crutchfield (Prince's last sax player and horn arranger), Ryan Saranich (reed player for Brit Floyd), Joey Rayfield (Trombonist with the New Power Generation Horns, affiliated with Prince), Al Cannon (former principal trumpet with the Vancouver Symphony, and director of the Vancouver Youth Symphony), and Tim Scott (artist in residence and drum set master for Charlotte Center City Partners). Several of Jerry's former students are present N.C and S.C. music educators.

NWSA Jazz Bands performed at the Piccolo Spoleto Arts Festival in Charleston over Memorial Day weekend between 1998 – 2004.

Jerry is entering his 25th year as a member of the tuba section of the Winthrop University based Carolinas Wind Orchestra.