

Dwight Christian –

Dwight Christian graduated from Loudon County High School in 1953 and after a short time in the private sector attended and graduated from Middle Tennessee State University. Upon his graduation in 1959 Mr. Christian accepted the band director's position at Macon High School in Lafayette, TN. His career led him to Oneida High School in TN and McCreary High School in Whitley, KY. In 1964 Mr. Christian moved to Knoxville where he began a 34 year career of distinction. While working in Knoxville City Schools he successfully taught students of all ages and became the marching band music arranger of choice for Knoxville City Schools. From 1966 to 1971 he was the band director at South High School. During this time the band competed in "The Greatest Band in Dixie" marching competition in New Orleans, LA. Under his leadership the South Band was twice named a top three finalist in this prestigious event. In 1971 Mr. Christian was accepted and attended the University of Tennessee where he received his master's degree. In 1972 he resumed his career with the Knoxville City Schools and in 1975 was named the director of the newly consolidated South-Young High School, where he served with distinction until 1990. In 1991 Mr. Christian was named "Director of Bands" at South-Doyle High School and remained there until his retirement in 1997. Mr. Christian's musical organizations were successful in the 4, 5, & 6 classifications at state concert festival. His marching bands were perennial top three winners at marching contests throughout the region. Mr. Christian's work with students in the field of jazz education was legendary. He was chair of the East Tennessee jazz studies committee that would eventually help establish the guidelines for all-east and all-state jazz band auditions. He served as the All-State jazz chairman and is a consultant and jazz clinician for many groups in the Knoxville area and the East Tennessee region.

Mr. Christian was a member of NBA, TMEA, and was named an "Honorary Life Member" in the ETSB&OA. He served on the board of directors of the Knoxville Musicians Union for 12 years, and he was a member and later elected president of Phi Beta Mu.

Mr. Christian has continued to perform professionally on both the saxophone and the vibraphone. He served 4 years on the board of directors for the "Joy of Music" school in Knoxville, TN. This fine arts school was developed for underprivileged students to assist with their musical enrichment. Dwight lives in Knoxville with his wife, Carolyn and is still active as a band consultant in the Knoxville area.