



Charles (Chuck) L. Booker

Charles Booker, Jr. (b. 1952) recently retired as Associate Professor of Theory and Composition at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Mr. Booker, a former U.S. Army Bandmaster studied composition with Hank Levy (composer/arranger for Stan Kenton), Dr. Steve Strunk and Dr. James Balentine, and conducting with Dr. Robert Garofalo and Dr. Robert Rustowicz. Mr. Booker has over forty published compositions and arrangements. His music is published by Alfred, Kendor, Southern Music Company, Wingert-Jones, Print Music Source and Booker Music, and has been performed internationally by schools, universities and professional bands that include The Army Band ("Pershing's Own"), the U.S. Army Field Band, the U.S. Military Academy Band (West Point), the U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America and the U.S. Air Force Academy Band. Mr. Booker's 21 year career in the U.S. Army included service in the Fifth Army Band in San Antonio, Texas, staff arranger for the Army Field Band, conductor of Army Bands in Louisiana, Germany, New York City, and director of the Jazz Ambassadors in Washington, D.C. As a trumpeter with the Fifth Army Band, Mr. Booker performed for the funerals of Presidents Truman and Johnson. In 1981, as the conductor of the 3rd Armored Division Band in Germany, Mr. Booker conducted welcoming ceremonies at Rhein Main Air Force Base for the returning American hostages from Iran. In New York City, he conducted the Army Band of New York City at ceremonies for head of states of the United States, Germany, France, Netherlands, Portugal and China, and his band performed at the centennial activities of the Statue of Liberty. While an associate conductor of the Army Field Band and director of the Jazz Ambassadors, Mr. Booker performed at the Kennedy Center, in 48 states, India, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Europe, and marched in the inauguration parades of Presidents George H. W. Bush and William J. Clinton. He was Interim Director of Bands at Trinity University from 1996 to 1997 and assistant editor at Southern Music Company from 1994 to 1997. In addition, Charles Booker is the founder and former conductor of the River Valley Community Band of Fort Smith, Arkansas. When Mr. Booker is not composing or teaching, he performs on trumpet with the Chris Cameron Blues Band throughout Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas and with the River Valley Community Band. Charles Booker has been recognized by the Mayor of Fort Smith (the 2006 "Mayor's Honors to the Visual and performing Arts"), the North Side Independent School District of San Antonio, Texas (the 2008 "Pillars of Character Award") and received the Arkansas Arts Council Award in music composition for 2009. Mr. Booker is past president of the Arkansas Chapter of College Band Directors National Association, past president of the Arkansas Chapter of the International Association of Jazz Educators, a member of the National Band Association, Texas Bandmasters Association and is past president of the Arkansas Bandmaster Association. Mr. Booker is also a member of the Arkansas Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, band fraternity Kappa Kappa Psi, and honorary music fraternity Pi Kappa Lambda. He and his wife Claudette now reside in San Antonio, Texas.