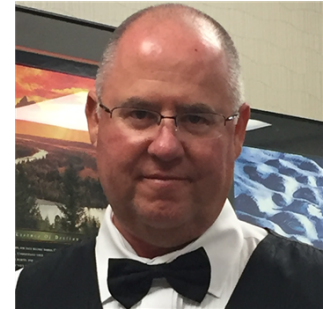


Texins Jazz Band

Bill Centera

Texins Jazz Band Music Director

Bill Centera began his teaching career in 1983 and has spent all of it in the Texas public schools teaching at the high school level. During his career he has served as Director of Bands at Waxahachie High School in Waxahachie, TX, Newman Smith High School in Carrollton, TX, Centennial HS in Frisco, TX, and most recently at the Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy in Grand Prairie, TX. While under his direction, his programs were recognized for musical excellence and were consistent UIL Sweepstakes winners.



Jazz Ensembles directed by Bill have been consistently regarded as among the best high school big bands in the country. The Waxahachie Jazz Ensemble I performed by invitation at the prestigious 1997 Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland, as well as performing live on WFAA's 'Good Morning Texas' program. His big bands have been recognized as champions of the University of Texas at Arlington Jazz Festival, the Texas Christian University Jazz Festival, and the Plano Invitational Jazz Festival multiple times and his ensembles have performed as the featured high school ensemble at the UTA Jazz Festival on several occasions. In addition, the Newman Smith Jazz Ensemble I was recognized nationally in the Music & Arts High School Big Band competition in 2011.

In 2014 Bill was asked to develop the jazz program at the Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy (GPFAA). The GPFAA Jazz Program has grown to include approximately 80 students in 5 ensembles. GPFAA Big Bands have been recognized and awarded through outstanding performances at the UTA Jazz Festival in Arlington, the TCU Jazz Festival in Fort Worth, the Plano Jazz Invitational at Plano Senior High School, the Texas Wesleyan Jazz Festival in Fort Worth, the Hill Country Jazz Festival at Texas State University in San Marcos, the Longhorn Jazz Festival at The University of Texas in Austin, and the Denton Arts & Jazz Festival.

Bill Centera received his Bachelor's of Music from the University of Texas at Arlington and his Master's of Secondary Education from the University of North Texas.

In October 2021 Bill became the music director for Texins Jazz Band (<https://texinsjazz.com>)