

Grand Marshal Bert Ferntheil

Hello Temple City

I am very honored to be have been chosen as Co-Grand Marshal for this year's Camellia Festival, and event I have participated in for the past 31 years as the Band and Orchestra Director at Temple City High School. It has been a highlight of each school year, and I have always emphasized to my students how important it is to give back to the community.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, I was always been involved in music, starting in 1st grade with piano and drums in 3rd grade. I joined band in 7th grade and also played in a YMCA Concert band. In 9th grade I was selected for the Cincinnati Youth Symphony Orchestra. After graduation from High School in 1976, I attended Indiana University which I earned a Bachelor of Music in Performance. Thereafter I moved west and attended USC, graduating with a Master of Music Performance. I joined the USC Band in 1982, and my final performance with USC was at the 1985 Rose Bowl game and Parade.

I began working at Temple City High School in 1983 as drum Instructor for Gary Yearick. In 1985, after attending the High School's production of The Sound of Music I decided to pursue a career in teaching. I received my credential in 1987 and taught in Los Angeles schools for two years, and then returned to Temple City High School as Director in 1989.

Some highlights of my music career have been:

* Cincinnati Youth Symphony documentary for PBS with Aaron Copeland conducting, Played in the 1984 Olympic Opening Ceremonies - timpanist for Fanfare for the Common Man, Percussionist in Cincinnati Symphony, Percussionist for the Pasadena Symphony (1981-1984), Played in the 1985 Rose Parade and Rose Bowl game with USC, Rose Parade with the Temple City High School Band 2004 and 2015, Numerous Beef Bowl performances with the Temple City Band, Tournament of Roses Player/Parent Breakfast performances with Temple City Band, Honors Orchestra performance at Carnegie Hall in 2005, Honors Orchestra performance at Disney Concert Hall in 2014

My wife Kristi was the auxiliary instructor and math teacher at TCHS where we met and were married in 1989. We have two children, Maggie (27) and Jake (24) who attended Emperor, Oak, and graduated from Temple City High School. They are both now college graduates, with Maggie graduating from Calvin College and Jake from Redlands University.

I have been blessed at Temple City High School to have had many outstanding students during my 32 years. I am proud of the growth of the band and orchestra programs at TCHS during my tenure. When I arrived in 1989 the program had 30 band members and 25 orchestra members. Over the years, the program grew to have 170 in band members and about 200 members in three separate orchestras. The high school offered year round programs for students, beginning with Marching Band with field shows in the fall, a Holiday Concert with the orchestras in December, participation in the Christmas Concert with the vocal department (Honors Orchestra and Pit Orchestra), Chamber music in January, basketball Pep Band, Festival Concert and SCSBOA Festival in March, Musical Theater production in March, St. Luke's Fiesta with the Jazz Band, Jazz in the Park, Symphony Pop's Concert, Spring Cavalcade, and the annual Big Band Dance. My philosophy for the band and orchestra has always been to support the school and community. I have tried to do as many sporting events, school activities, and community events that we could.

Once again, I am honored to have been named Grand Marshal with Matt Byers for the 77th Temple City Camellia Festival. My time in Temple City has been most enjoyable and rewarding over the years. I go walking around town almost every day, so if you see me be sure to say hello!

