



Hall of Fame INDUCTEE 2023

C. THOMAS KEIL JR.

• CLASS OF 1959 •

Arts



Tom Keil bled Green and White. He was born in South Fayette, to Mary and Clyde Keil, and lived on Sygan Hill until he went to the University of Dayton to study for his future career as a music educator. Influenced by his unforgettable experience as a member and leader in the South Fayette Little Green Machine, Tom was driven to provide his students with the same opportunities that South Fayette's programs had provided him.

In high school, Tom was a trumpet player in the concert Band, Dance Band, Brass Choir, and Marching Band. He was also an officer in The Monogram Club and played both varsity basketball and baseball for SF during grades 10 - 12. At the University of Dayton, Tom studied music and performed with UD's Marching Band. After graduating in 1963, he taught band, general music, chorus, and instrumental music in the small town of Kalida, Ohio.

In the fall of 1967, Tom was able to return to his hometown when he received a position teaching instrumental music in the neighboring Chartiers Valley School District. In 1969, he took over the high school band position, deciding to incorporate the style he knew and loved from SF but adding a marching element...thus, the CV Show Band was born. To this day, CV still uses his format, and the band is still known for its energy and "flair"!

Tom received his Master's Degree in Music and Education Administration from Duquesne University and earned several teaching honors through the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) as well as the Music Educators National Conference (MENC). In 1983, he served as assistant director for The American Youth Symphony, conducting overseas in Austria (Vienna and Salzburg), Czech Republic (Prague), and Germany (Berlin).

Above all, Tom's primary focus was his family. His mother and father, aunts, uncles, and many cousins (most of whom also attended South Fayette) were his life. He was married to Renee Giovane Keil for 40 years, and, together, they shared the success of developing the CV Show Band. Their daughter, Alix Keil Barrett (Tom's pride and joy), also had the chance to perform with the CV group, carrying out her father's legacy.

As a result of being raised in South Fayette during the 1950s, Tom had strong morals and a work ethic which enabled him to succeed on his own merit. He took what South Fayette taught him and generously gave back to thousands of young musicians. Tom had an amazing impact on the lives and musical education of so very many students who will forever remember him fondly. He truly had a profound impact on an entire generation.

Tom Keil passed away at the age of 71.