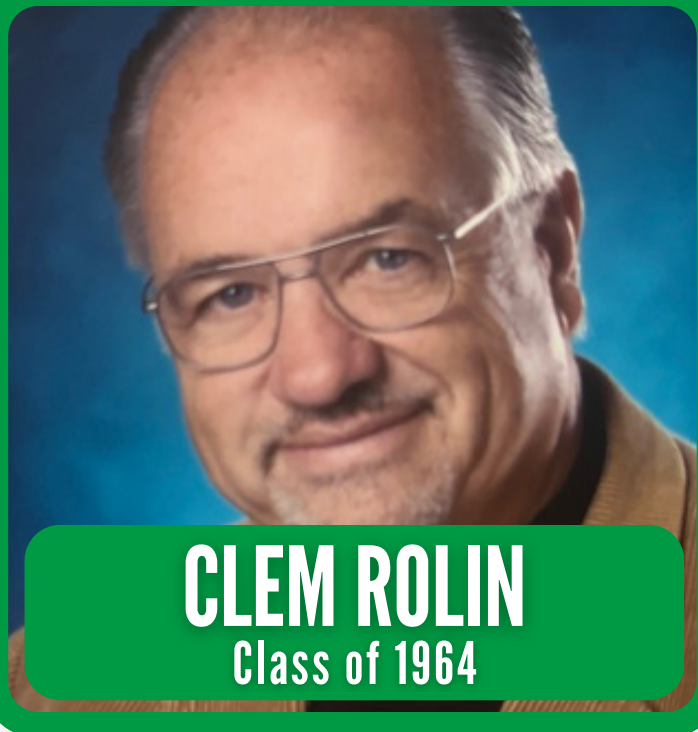




2025 Hall of Fame INDUCTEE

Clement "Clem" Rolin, was a grandchild of European immigrants and grew up learning the native family languages and traditions, as well as with a love of all genres of the world's finest music. He enjoyed all types of musical performances and was overwhelmed to see how music brought people together.

Clem was a member of the "historic" class of 1964, the first seventh grade class to enter and to graduate from the then-newly constructed South Fayette Junior-Senior High School. This was also the only class to perform a Broadway musical as its senior class play. Clem conducted the pit orchestra for that show, "The Boy Friend." By his ninth grade year, he

had become a familiar face on the local music scene, playing at numerous events, wedding receptions, and SF high school dances. He continued to perform in the area's dance and jazz venues for 64 years.

Clem earned both a bachelor's in music education and a master's at Duquesne University. He became Director of Bands and Department Chair at Montour School District and helped to develop one of the area's outstanding and truly diverse music programs. Montour's band made regular appearances at Pittsburgh Steelers games, and the music program captured three successive national invitational competitions in jazz, concert, and marching.

After 22 years developing the successful Montour program, Clem returned to South Fayette in 1990 to replace the long-tenured band director, John Testa, who was known for his signature style. Under Clem, the tradition of high-energy, home-grown, audience-oriented, quality music performance not only continued, but was greatly enhanced. Participation in downtown Pittsburgh parades became a regular occurrence, with the band establishing a string of successive wins at the St Patrick's Day and Labor Day parades. In 1991, the band led off the Charlotte 500 Parade, and in 1992, it won 1st place at the International Blossom Festival Parade in Niagara Falls, Canada, their first-ever international competition and win. In 1993, the band auditioned for, and was accepted to perform at a Pittsburgh Steelers game. After a rousing Three Rivers Stadium crowd response, they were invited to perform seven more times for the Steelers during Clem's years as director. The band also performed in New York City with a surprise appearance on NBC's "Today Show," a performance at a Mets game, and the 2000 St. Patty's Day Parade. Clem's programming of the "The Little Green Machine's" shows required each student to leave every ounce of energy on the field. A large banner in the band room summarized his expectation: "EVERYTHING RIGHT? NOTHING LEFT!!" In addition to success as a group, South Fayette students qualified to participate in PMEA State Band or Orchestra in twelve of Clem's thirteen-year tenure. In 1992, Clem organized the first-ever South Fayette Alumni Band which was reorganized for the band's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 1997.

In 1994, Clem was asked to create a marching band program for the initial season of Robert Morris College football. In doing so, he became the first SF alumnus to head a university band. He simultaneously headed both the RMU and SF bands for nine years, and after his retirement from South Fayette in 2003, he continued at RMU until 2008, where he also taught Humanities. Clem made numerous guest conducting appearances, including two stints with the World Civic Orchestra at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

In 2009, he accepted the role as Principal Conductor/Music Director of the West Hills Symphonic Band and led them until this past summer. In 2010, he began serving as an adjunct instructor for the West Allegheny High School Jazz Ensemble.

Clem married fellow SF Band alum, Karen Furno, in 1969.

