

CD Album Dedication

A special note from “McMeow, The Crime Kitty” composer/creator, Sue Straw

I made a decision to dedicate this and all my future albums to a specific person — to someone who has made a significant impact upon my life.

So I am therefore, and most appropriately, dedicating this first professionally-produced album to band director, **Bill Heath** (1925-2004).

I chose Mr. Heath, because I believe my ability to write and arrange music is a direct result of years of rich training and musical experiences I had under his professional expertise and guidance.

When I write and arrange music and put the “saxes in here” or the “drum roll there,” I instinctively know how to do it, I believe, because of all those great years in marching band and concert band with Mr. Heath.

In 6th grade beginning band I started out on a “tonette,” then my first “real” instrument was the clarinet. Then before summer break one year, Mr. Heath handed me an oboe and told me to take it home over the summer and learn how to play it. I did.

When he was short on sax players, he told me to take home a tenor sax and learn how to play it. I did.

Then when he was short of drummers, he sent me home with a snare drum and some sticks to learn that, too. I did.

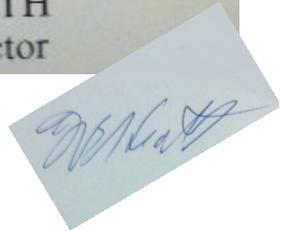
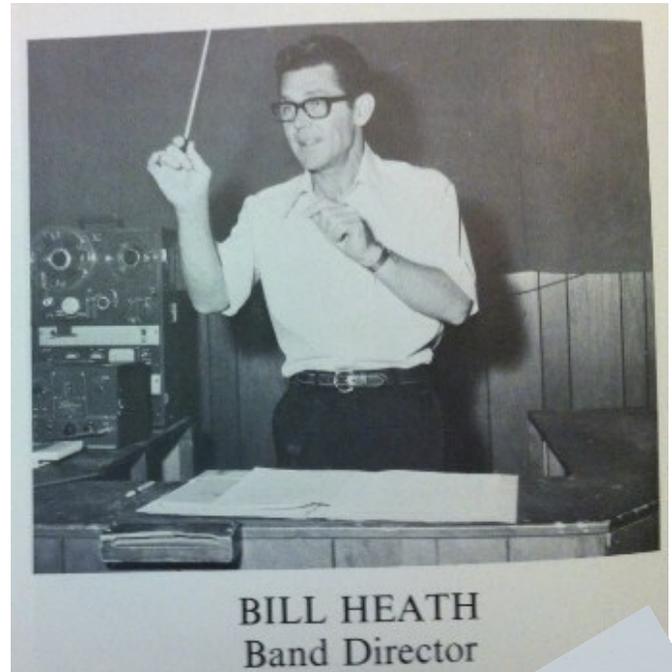
Whether it was marching with a tenor drum or trio toms, a glockenspiel, or playing timpani in the end zone, when he gave me a task to do and the encouragement to do it, I did it.

His youngest daughter, Rita, told me in a Facebook message that I was “probably his favorite student of all time.”



Rita Heath

That sounds like him... you were probably his favorite student of all time. He was so proud of you on that oboe!



This is something I did not know at all, but it really touched my heart. So I knew I wanted to pay tribute to this man for all he had done for me. And I know there are hundreds, if not thousands, of other students that he significantly influenced as well.

Finally, I would encourage all young people to take music classes and to “give Band a try” if it is offered in your school or community. And, if you’re really lucky, you just might end up having a great musician, band director, and friend . . . like **Bill Heath**.

P.S. Mr. Heath, if you’re up there listening (and I know you are) BOOMER SOONER!!!