

## Carl Erwin Idlebird

Carl Erwin Idlebird was born on April 6, 1957 in Bryan, Texas. He is the seventh of seven children born to Willie & Rosie Idlebird. Carl attended schools in the Bryan Independent School District, where he graduated from Bryan High School in 1975. Carl began playing trumpet in sixth grade under the direction of William Portis. His high school director for the last two years at Bryan High School was TBA Hall of Fame Director Pete Rodriguez. One of the highlights of Carl's high school career was being selected to the TMEA All-State Band in his senior year. He was the third chair cornet player in the Symphonic Band.

After graduating from high school, Carl matriculated to Sam Houston State University where he was under the guidance and direction of TBA Hall of Fame Director (Dr.) Ralph Mills. His marching band director was Dr. Henry Howe and his trumpet teachers were Thomas Parriott and Gary Pollard. He also enjoyed being a member of the Sam Houston State Jazz Ensemble for a year and a half under the direction of David Caffey. A highlight of Carl's experience in the jazz band was the opportunity he had to travel and perform during a two-week tour of Romania.

Carl graduated from Sam Houston in December of 1979, where he received a Bachelor of Music Education Degree. Later, he decided to continue his education by enrolling into graduate school for a Master of Music in Music Theory/Composition. He completed this degree in 1988 while teaching full time. Carl's supervising professor was Dr. James Marks. He also had the privilege of studying with Dr. Fisher Tull for a semester.

His first teaching job was as a long-term substitute for an elementary music teacher who was on maternity leave. At the end of that school year, Carl knew that he needed to quickly find a band directing job.

Carl's first band director job was as an assistant at A&M Consolidated High School in College Station, Texas. The head director and Carl's first boss was William (Bill) Atkins. Carl continued to be the assistant and the director of the Tiger Jazz Band for the next six years. His jazz bands won several regional jazz festivals and was lauded by one festival judge to be "perhaps one of the best in the nation." Eventually, Carl accepted the head job at A&M Consolidated High School after tremendous learning experiences as the assistant to Bill Atkins, Roger Boening and Cindy Mikel. Carl's 4A and 5A Bands enjoyed success at UIL, TMEA and invitational contests for the next five years. After twelve years at A&M Consolidated, Carl decided it was time for a change. In 1992 to the present, he was hired as the Director of Bands for the Somerville ISD in Somerville, Texas.

The Somerville Band Program at that time was a fourth and fifth division program. There was a total of 50 students enrolled in band, grades six through twelve. Carl realized that the level of the program was suffering due to a lack of individual preparation for all-region band try-outs and UIL events. Most of the students accepted the challenge and many began to make the all-region band as well as perform challenging solos and ensembles. By Carl's third year, the Somerville Band made a Superior

Rating in UIL Marching for the first time in the school district's history. The number of all-region players by this time increased from one to fifteen. By his fifth year, there were 158 students enrolled in band, grades six through twelve. Carl had 27 students make the high school all-region band, twelve go to Area, three make the ATSSB All-State Band and three were chosen as alternates to State. Over the last thirty years, Carl has had fourteen students make the all-state band. Six of the fourteen made it twice and two made it three times. The Somerville Band has received the Sweepstakes trophy nineteen consecutive years with a total of 28, a total of 31 first divisions in UIL Marching (missing one year due to Covid), 31 consecutive first divisions in UIL Concert, and 29 first divisions in UIL Sightreading.

The Somerville Band has made six appearances at the UIL State Marching Contest (2003, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015), receiving the Bronze Medal in 2011. The Yegua Band has several top ten finishes in the States OPS between 2000 and 2015, Four of these finishes were for first place. Carl's bands have also done well in the TMEA State Honor Contest. Not only are there several top five finishes, there are at least four runner-up placements over the last twenty five years as well.

Carl was called to the Ministry in the year 2000. In obedience to the call, he enrolled in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and completed a Master of Theological Studies. He has been the pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas for the last seven years.

Carl's professional affiliations include memberships in the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA), Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB), Texas Music Adjudicators Association (TMAA), Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA), and Phi Beta Mu. Carl was awarded the Somerville Teacher of the Year Award in 2000, The College of Education Dean's Roundtable Award (Texas A&M University) in 2001, the Somerville Community Builders Award in 2008, the UIL Sponsor Excellence Award in 2014, and the Robinson Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015. Carl is also listed in Who's Who Among American Teachers.

Carl and his beautiful wife Ursula have been married for 43 years. Ursula has been the computer teacher, technology supervisor, and UIL coordinator for Somerville ISD for the past 26 years. Carl and Ursula have two wonderful sons, Jeremy and Jason. They are both Somerville graduates, All State Band members, superb athletes, and Texas A&M graduates. Jeremy is married to Tish and they have a one year old son named Hayden. Jeremy also has a 17 year-old son, Kamaron, from a previous relationship. Kamaron is presently a senior in high school. Jason is married to Erika and they have a daughter named Emeri.

"God is good all the time and all the time God is good!" This is what Carl says when he talks about The Lord's blessings on his life. He will tell you that he is so glad that Ursula said, "Yes, I will marry you." Their two sons are blessed to have married two beautiful women. They are wonderful parents to their three fantastic children. Carl and Ursula are really enjoying being grandparents.

Carl is constantly asked about when he will retire. He seems to always say, "This is it. Probably by the end of this year." The fact of the matter is he doesn't know how to quit. He loves teaching, interacting with people, and watching students grow. He loves opportunities to show the love of Christ. "Christ be edified!" "To God be the glory!"