

Dr. William Theodore (Ted) McDaniel, Jr.
Professor Emeritus of Music and African American & African
Studies
The Ohio State University

**musician, composer-arranger, conductor, scholar, teacher, clinician,
specialist in African American Music and Jazz**

Dr. Ted McDaniel, **Professor of African American Music** at The Ohio State University since 1981, is a specialist in jazz history, jazz performance, and African American music. He retired from OSU after teaching there for 35 years on June 1, 2015. He held faculty appointments in the School of Music and the Department of African American and African Studies, where he served as Department Chair for eight years. His scholarly and creative writings were mostly on aspects of jazz and black music, and he was invited to lecture extensively throughout the United States and to present in Africa, Europe, and China.

He was **Director of Jazz Studies** since 1983 and directed the OSU Jazz Ensemble from 1990-2015. His leadership of the OSU Jazz Ensemble led to performances throughout Ohio and the United States and at schools, colleges and universities, and at professional music conferences. They also took five international tours: European tours to France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, where they performed at the leading jazz festivals (North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland; Montreux Jazz Festival and Brienz Jazz Festival in Switzerland; Vienna Jazz Festival in Austria; Vienne Jazz Festival in France; and Tuscany Jazz Festival and Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy) and other non-festival sites and cities; Canada tour to Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia; and most recently in 2014 to China for a U. S. State Department-sponsored tour with performances in Beijing, Xinxiang, Wuhan, and Shanghai through the Center for American Culture, where he lectured at the Henan Normal University and the Wuhan Conservatory of Music. Additionally he led the administrative team for the annual OSU Jazz Festival, annual OSU Summer Jazz Camp, and the occasional Jazz Symposium.

His numerous music arrangements (over 300) represent a diverse portfolio but are primarily for jazz bands, R & B groups, and marching bands. He has written music for the "Sesame Street" TV show, and has served as an arranger for the OSU Marching Band since 1981, where his music has been performed at every Big 10 stadium and at major bowl games. In autumn 2013 his music arrangements of the Michael Jackson halftime show for the OSU Marching Band were viewed by over 15 million persons on YouTube. He has written music for performances in the Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Orange Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Liberty Bowl, Citrus Bowl and at National Championship Bowl sites. In autumn 2018 he arranged the music for the OSU Marching Band halftime show tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. entitled *I Have a Dream*. Additionally he has written music arrangements for other colleges and universities. His music arrangements and liner notes appear on more than 20 CDs and record albums.

He has been the recipient of numerous grants from university sources, city sources, organization/professional association sources, state arts and humanities councils, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has also received numerous awards, citations, and honors for his work in music, primarily from professional organizations, city and state governments, and colleges and universities.

During the 35 years that he served on the faculty at The Ohio State University, he served on numerous committees at the departmental, college, and university levels. He also was invited by other institutions to read, review, or evaluate manuscripts or faculty work. Additionally he has held offices and memberships in several organizations that include the National Black Music Caucus that he cofounded in 1972 (now the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music), Center for Black Music Research, National Association for Jazz Education, Music Educators National Conference, National Council for Black Studies, Jazz Education Network, and the Association for the Study of AfroAmerican Life and History.

Among his many awards in recognition for his contributions to the field of music, he was the recipient of the “**Distinguished Teaching Award**” in 1987 and the “**Distinguished Scholar Award**” in 1994 from the OSU School of Music. In 2000 he received the “**Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Award**” and the “**Faculty Award for Distinguished University Service**” in 2011 from The Ohio State University. At the Spring Commencement in May 2019, he was awarded the “**Distinguished Service Award**” from The Ohio State University.

Recent acknowledgment of his work and accomplishments: February 2018, he received the “**Bennie Service Award,**” named after Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, former Morehouse President and mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., from his alma mater Morehouse College at the 151st Founder’s Day Celebration in Atlanta. In March 2018, he received the “**Signature Sinfonian Award and Key,**” the highest award presented by the music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, presented at The Ohio State University.

In 2006 the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. commissioned him to write new music in commemoration of their Centennial celebrated in Washington DC. In 2011 he served as a Music conductor and Music arranger for the dedication of the Martin Luther King Jr. Monument on the Mall in Washington DC for the Constitution Hall Concert. He also served as music consultant for the film on the MLK Monument entitled “Building the Dream” that debuted on Public Television stations nationally in summer 2013. He is a music scholar on “blues and jazz” and consultant for the new African American Music Museum currently under construction in Nashville, TN.

He received his B.A. degree from Morehouse College and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in music from the University of Iowa. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, he previously taught at Morehouse College and North Carolina A & T State University. He continues to

be active as a scholar, teacher, arranger, conductor, clinician, and adjudicator in African American music and jazz education circles, and he continues his service on the Ohio Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, where he is invited to lecture on various topics of jazz, black music, and African American culture. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Martin Luther King Performing Arts Complex (KAC) in Columbus, OH and the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music (NASPAAM) of Atlanta, GA.

Ted is married to Bernice Dowdy McDaniel, and they are the parents of two adult sons, William T. McDaniel, III and Elliot B. McDaniel and the grandparents of three girls.