

Jazz teacher takes talents elsewhere

In the early 1980s, the Lake-Sumter Community College music program was cooking under the direction of jazz studies teacher Bart Marantz.

The music program was growing and four years of highly successful jazz festivals had received national attention in the music industry and its trade journals.

Who can forget the jazz extravaganza clinics at the college, which featured music greats such as Maynard Ferguson?

But then the program hit a sour note not of Marantz's making.

Some major changes in the college administration occurred. The appointment of a new president and four new board members resulted in a curriculum shift away from fine arts to new computer and nursing programs.

The music program essentially was dismantled and became an asterisk in the curriculum schedule. Jazz teacher-performer Marantz became history.

So what's happened to Marantz since leaving Lake County 10 years ago?

Quite a lot.

For one thing, he has just been named recipient of *Downbeat* magazine's 1993 International Achievement Award in Jazz Education.

That's not all.

Marantz has recorded, held jazz workshops in South Africa and France, been published in trade and education magazines, produced festivals and designed a method book and new music for



Bill Bond

ON THE LAKE FRONT

jazz combos as well as big bands.

He also has continued teaching jazz to young musicians who have racked up oodles of national awards and become performing artists in their own right.

Marantz is now director of jazz studies at the highly acclaimed Booker T. Washington School for Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas.

Marantz's program has won 62 *Downbeat* awards. From 1984-89, and then again in 1992, the arts magnet school led international competition in the United States and Canada by winning more awards than any other high school or college in North America.

Marantz's department has produced six albums during the past nine years and has 11 jazz recordings to its credit over its 17-year history. These albums have aired throughout the United States, Europe and Africa.

During this period, three of Marantz's musicians have signed to major labels: Roy Hargrove, trumpet, with RCA; Tim Owens, vocals, with Atlantic; and Eric White, drums, with Reprise.

Please see BOND, 12

Jazz instructor's students become leading musicians

BOND from 1

Other nationally leading musicians who have graduated under the baton of Marantz since 1983 are Joe Jackson, a trombone soloist with U.S. Air Force Airmen of Note; Mike Tyler, who plays lead trumpet for Wayne Newton; alto saxophone player Keith Anderson; and Aaron Comess, a drummer with the Spin Doctors.

Marantz toured the country with Ray Charles, the Glenn Miller Band and Gladys Knight before he became director of instrumental music in 1980 at LSCC.

Within three months of his hiring, major changes occurred within the college administration with the appointment of a new college president and four new board members.

Despite many indications of a growing instrument department, the administration split the music building, dedicating half for music and the other half for a new nursing program.

"I was fired ... the music department was fired," said Marantz.

"I am the same teacher now with hope and expectations for my students as I was then," Marantz said. "But I must tell you there were some very talented instructors at the college while I was there and some good students. The problem was that the administration had no vision for the future in the arts."