

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH -- DR. LAURENCE L. MARKS**

Dr. Laurence Marks has maintained a diverse career as a conductor, music educator, clinician, and adjudicator for more than forty years. He retired in 2013 from teaching duties at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and subsequently conducted a large community band in Charlotte before relocating to Reno, NV, in 2016.

Dr. Marks was a member of the faculty at UNC-Charlotte for thirteen years, serving as director of bands, professor of conducting, instructor of courses in music education, and supervisor of student teachers. He also previously served on faculties at the University of Missouri and the University of Louisville. He also served on the Board of Directors of Carolina Crown for ten years in Fort Mill, SC

A native Californian, Dr. Marks has worked with bands and orchestras of all ages and levels of experience. He holds a doctorate in music education/conducting from the Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California; a master's degree in music education from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and the bachelor's degree in music education from San Jose State University. His research has examined trends in music teacher preparation, mentoring, induction, and retention. His conducting teachers at USC included Larry Rachleff, Douglas Lowry, and orchestral conductor Daniel Lewis.

During his tenure at UNC Charlotte, the band program more than tripled in size. In the space of eight years, the UNCC Symphonic Wind Ensemble was invited to perform three times for the North Carolina Music Educators Association's State Conference (2002, 2007, and 2010) and in 2006 for the College Band Directors National Association's Southern Division Convention at Vanderbilt University.

Memberships in professional organizations include the College Band Directors National Association, the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, and the North Carolina Music Educators Association. He was appointed to serve on the first Music Education Committee of CBDNA (2008 -10) and was coordinator of the Young Conductors Mentoring Project at the 2009 WASBE International Convention held in Cincinnati, OH. Dr. Marks has been honored twice by the National Band Association (NBA) with its *Citation for Excellence* in teaching and performance and has been honored with professional recognitions from the states of California, Kentucky and North Carolina. He has conducted internationally in Canada, Spain, Portugal, Germany and the United Kingdom.