



April 5, 1992

Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



Edward J. Downing Class of 1953

Edward J. Downing distinguished himself in the field of Music Education.

In 1953, he graduated as valedictorian of his Theodore Roosevelt High School class and entered the University of Michigan, where he earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education.

His teaching career began in Wyandotte in 1957 as a public school music educator. He also taught in Flint, Belleville, and Ann Arbor. At the University of Michigan, he served as Instructor, Conductor of the University Wind Ensemble and Varsity Band, Assistant with the Marching Band and Administrator of the University of Michigan All-State Program.

Mr. Downing's musical groups consistently earned first division ratings at district and state festivals. He has received national recognition for performances at conferences, clinics and college and professional football games. Mr. Downing was named Teacher of the Year by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association and served the organization as its President.

He has been guest conductor at numerous festivals both in the United States and overseas. On five occasions, he conducted youth bands in Europe under the auspices of Musical Youth International and Youth for Understanding. Under his leadership, the MYI Band won first prize at Tees-side International Eisteddfod in Middlesborough, England.

In 1978, Mr. Downing was appointed Vice President of Interlochen Center for The Arts and Director of Interlochen Arts Camp. As Director, he is responsible for the leadership and management of the educational program offered the Camp's 1400 students. He is also responsible for concert programming throughout the year.