

Mark Setterlind was an extraordinary educator and highly accomplished musician whose devotion to music transformed generations of students in Negaunee. The impact he had on NPS came from his sincere love of music and his natural ability to teach and connect with student musicians. Mr. Setterlind's musical and teaching talents enriched students and audiences in our community and beyond for decades.

A 1971 graduate of Escanaba High School, Mark went on to earn his teaching degree from NMU. He never stopped learning, earning his Master's degree and many continuing education credits throughout his career. Mr. Setterlind first stepped into the classroom at Negaunee High School in 1976, marking the start of his exceptional 31-year tenure. As a young educator, he was excited to work for NPS and recognized how special it was for a small Class C school to offer a strings program that was thriving, especially in the U.P. and at a time when districts were being faced with budget cuts to Fine Arts programs. He saw the potential to develop NPS' already strong orchestra program to a level of excellence, and was committed to making that happen.

"Mr. S" had a way of teaching that engaged, challenged, and captivated his students. The atmosphere of Mr. Setterlind's classroom was carefree and refreshing, which carried over to performances. Under his direction, Negaunee's orchestra program soared and at one time it was one of the largest in the state of Michigan with 120 student musicians. On a national scale, the size of the NHS orchestra program in the late 80's was just as impressive; NHS was thought to be one of the few high schools in the country to have more than 10% of the student body playing a string instrument. The community pride of Negaunee's orchestra was palpable - not only for the sheer talent of musicians, but for the incredible participation numbers and the positive experiences that students in the program had.

Some of the most memorable experiences were the ambitious field trips that Mr. Setterlind arranged for his orchestra students. In 1985, he led his ensemble to a prestigious performance at the North American Music Festival in Toronto. Four years later, he initiated the first of several memorable NHS Orchestra European tours, giving Negaunee students a global stage and memories to last a lifetime. Mr. Setterlind did not let the small size of our student body deter him from any opportunity for his students to perform or learn about music.

Through his three decades in the district, Mark instilled a proud tradition of music education and inspired hundreds of young musicians. Former students and colleagues attest that his teaching style was driven by true passion and connection to music. Mr. S inspired many of his students to keep music in their life beyond graduation, ranging from performing professionally, becoming music teachers themselves, or joining community string groups. Mark believed that music was not an "extra" in education, but instead was a vital part of learning, and that music taught confidence, creativity, and cooperation.

Beyond the classroom, Mark's own musical pedigree was elite. An accomplished instrumentalist, he was an original member of the Marquette Symphony Orchestra and performed with the NMU Orchestra for over 20 years. His talents also extended across the region as a member of both the Keweenaw Symphony and the Sault Ste. Marie Symphony. Mr. Setterlind was also a founding member of the Superior Strings and started a dedicated summer music camp for students in 1986, driven by a desire to keep students playing year-round. For more than 20 years, he taught and performed at the camp alongside the Superior Festival Orchestra. In recognition of his all-around excellence, Mark received numerous honors and awards, including the State of Michigan Orchestra Teacher of the Year (2004, District XIV), NPS Outstanding Educator of the Year (2007), and Outstanding Arts Educator Marquette County (2008).

Highly respected by peers, students, and the community alike, Mr. Setterlind's commitment to excellence is one to be emulated. Mark's legacy lives on in every note played in our community, no matter how much time has passed since he last raised his baton.

It is with great honor that we welcome the late Mr. Mark Setterlind into the Hall of Fame. Congratulations to him, and his family, for this well-deserved recognition.