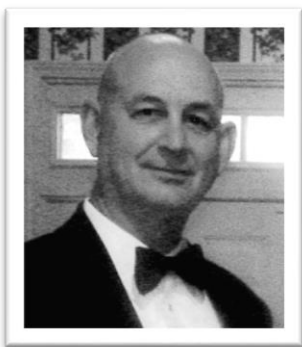


SHREVEPORT METROPOLITAN CONCERT BAND AT LSUS CONDUCTOR



Joseph E. LeBlanc (b. February 16, 1955) was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. After graduating from O. Perry Walker High School, Joe attended LA Tech University where he received his Bachelors of Arts in Music Education. Following his graduation from Tech, he taught for six years in Mississippi. While teaching there, he received his Masters in Music Education from Mississippi State University. Upon returning to Louisiana, Joe taught 2 years in Haynesville before settling in Shreveport which he continues to call home. While teaching for Caddo Parish he received his "Plus 30" in School Administration and Supervision of School Music from Centenary College of Louisiana.

During his time in Shreveport Joe served as the **LMEA DISTRICT VIII BAND DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION** President, the **LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF JAZZ EDUCATORS** Vice President and the **LOUISIANA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATIONS** Orchestra Division Chair. Joe is an active member of **LMEA**, **NAfME**, **TMEA**, **PHI BETA MU**, a member of **PHI MU ALPHA** and a past member of the **AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION**. His last teaching post was at Caddo Magnet High School where he taught Band, Jazz Band, and Beginning Piano as well as serving as the school's Performing and Visual Arts Chair. Following 35-year teaching career, he retired in 2012.

While teaching full-time, Joe maintained a second career, serving his country as a "Citizen-Soldier" for a combined 29 years' service with both the Louisiana Army and Texas Air National Guard. Upon completion of Army Basic Training in 1986, he served as an instrumentalist, with the 156th Army Band, Louisiana Army National Guard he performing on horn, trombone, trumpet and piano. He also served the 156th Army Band's as the jazz ensemble leader and enlisted conductor. In 2004, he transferred to 531st Air Force Band, Texas Air National Guard.



As a member of the 531AF Band, Joe deployed to Southwest Asia in 2011 as a part of "Blue Hawk" (the official AFCENT band) providing music for countless U.S. and coalition force service members as well as providing cultural outreach and exchange with local citizens of multiple countries including Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. In 2015 Joe retired as the Superintendent, Manager and Enlisted Conductor of the 531st Air Force Band.

A few of Joe's musical experiences as a "Citizen-Soldier" include performing as member of the 156th Army Band when President Bill Clinton visited BAFB, playing piano and leading the jazz combo at the opening and dedication of the National WWII Museum in New Orleans and performing for 2002 Congressional Medal of Honor Convention which was held here in Shreveport/Bossier City. Other musical experiences include leading and conducting the 531st Air Force Band, for the Texas National Guard Adjutant General change of command ceremony, playing the Star Spangled on the 4th of July at the U.S. Embassy in Kyrgyzstan and working with the National Events Coordinator while leading the operations team for the 531st AF Band when they performed for the Dedication Ceremony of President George W. Bush's Presidential Library. But Joe's most memorable "Citizen-Soldier" experience is non-musical. He is most proud of having been able to serve, aid and assist fellow citizens, victims and refugees suffering from the effects of Hurricanes Rita, Ike and Gustav.



As an under-graduate student, Joe served as principal horn with the Ruston Civic Orchestra, as well as assistant first horn in the South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. While teaching in Mississippi, he not only performed as a free-lance musician, Joe was principal horn in the Starkville Civic Orchestra, various horn positions in the Columbus, MS Symphony Orchestra and horn in the Board Town Woodwind Quintet.

Since moving to Shreveport in 1985, Joe has continuously performed as a free-lance hornist throughout the Ark-La-Tex. He first played horn with the SMCB as early as 1986 and when not on the podium plays as often as possible with the band. He plays horn on a regular basis with the Red River Wind Orchestra and E-flat Horn with the British Brass Bands of Louisiana. Joe is also a member of the Northwest Louisiana Horns Ensemble which includes both amateur and professional Hornist.

Joe is married to former orchestra teacher and professional violinist, Johnette Johnston LeBlanc. They have four grown children, Aaron, Tessa, Adam and Evanne. Both sons play in the SMCB. Aaron plays trumpet and Adam plays bass. Tessa and her husband, Will Hughes; together run the Cadenza Violin Shop in Shreveport. Evanne, who plays violin, just recently graduated from Northwestern State University.



When he is not playing horn or conducting the band, Joe spends time doing woodworking, cooking and enjoying his granddaughter, Harper Elizabeth Hughes.