

To the beat of their own drummer

Music festival brings the best musicians from area schools and the Armed Forces to Central Texas

By Laura Kaae
Scene

Musicians from across the country will converge on the Killeen area beginning today for the annual Central Texas Music Festival.

Special guests for this year's festival will include the 36th Infantry Division Band, an Army Reserve band stationed in Austin; the 25th director of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, retired Col. John R. Bourgeois, who will serve as guest conductor; and Chief Master Sgt. Joe Tersero from the United States Air Force Band, Washington, D.C., who will be the festival soloist. Tersero received his early music education from the Killeen Independent School District, and credits much of his musical success to his public school music teachers from 1974 to 1980.

In addition to the featured artists, there will be performances by high school bands all over Central Texas, including bands from Copperas Cove, Cinco Ranch, Killeen, Belton, Harker Heights, Midway, DeSoto as well as the selected students from the Invitational High School Honor Band. Several middle schools will also be performing.

Music will include popular and modern songs, according to Ken Wood, a partner of The Band Room in Harker Heights which is co-sponsoring the event.

"It's not all highbrow music," he said. "It's middle of the road, entertaining music."

All music will be performed at the Lea Ledger Auditorium at Copperas Cove High School, which Wood said is the perfect venue.

"It's one of the biggest auditoriums and it works really

well," he said.

The event is free and open to the public; seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, he said.

The guest conductor, Bourgeois, was named director of "The President's Own" in 1979 and served as music adviser to the White House. He conducted the Marine Band and the Marine Chamber Orchestra at the White House and appeared there more frequently than any other musician in the nation. He is the current president and CEO of the John Philip Sousa Foundation. He will be serving as guest conductor for performances on Feb. 5, 7, 8, and 9.

Tersero is assigned to the United States Air Force Band, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., as chief music librarian and bassoonist. The one-time Heights Concert Band performer now is the principal bassoonist with the Annapolis Chamber Orchestra and is section bassoonist with the National Philharmonic, the Baltimore Opera and the Alexandria Symphony. Tersero will perform on Feb. 4, 8 and 9.



Col. John R. Bourgeois



Chief Master Sgt. Joe Tersero

Festival schedule

Lea Ledger Auditorium, Copperas Cove

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1	Copperas Cove High School concert band CCHS symphonic band Cinco Ranch High School wind ensemble
7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2	Elison High School saxophone quartet Carlton Morris & his band
7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4	Lampasas High School jazz band Lampasas Enriched band LHS concert band LHS symphonic band
6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5	Liberty Hill Middle School honors band Union Grove Middle School wind ensemble Harker Heights High School jazz ensemble HHHS symphonic band Belton High School wind ensemble HHHS wind ensemble
6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7	S.C. Lee Jr. High band I Copperas Cove Junior High wind ensemble Midway High School wind ensemble 2008 Invitational High School Honor Band
6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8	DeSoto All-City Middle School honor band CCJHS honor band 36th Infantry Division Band Heights Concert Band Combined band grand finale
7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9	DeSoto High School wind ensemble CCHS wind ensemble Combined band grand finale