



FESTIVAL DEDICATION

Charlie Combe

Charlie Combe (MM, BM, University of Wisconsin–Madison), an instructor of music and classical guitar at UW Oshkosh, Marian University, Ripon College, and UW–Fond du Lac, died after a brief heart-related illness at age 47 on March 4, 2009.

An extremely well-respected and well-liked instructor, Charlie touched the lives of countless students and colleagues. He was an accomplished performer and a student of guitarist, Javier Calderon. Born in Brownsville, TX, Charlie had a passion for American music—especially the Blues, folk music, Rhythm and Blues, and early Rock and Roll.

Mr. Combe shared an interesting connection to the WSMA State Music Festival. On the Friday afternoon before the 2001 festival, Charlie was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. The festival was postponed in the interest of safety for participants. With efforts from WSMA staff, school directors and administrators, and UW Oshkosh, it was rescheduled two weeks later. Mr. Combe overcame the illness, the festival went on, and students had an outstanding musical experience.

Before and since that date, Charlie Combe had volunteered at the festival information desk each year. He put his engaging, easy-going nature to work for all of us in a way that solidified his commitment to the value of beautiful music-making for everyone.

Please contact the Music Department office at 920-424-4224 if you would like to contribute to the Charles Combe Memorial Scholarship at UW Oshkosh.

We would like to dedicate our efforts for this WSMA Festival to our teacher and friend, Charlie Combe. He is dearly missed, greatly loved, and in our hearts forever.