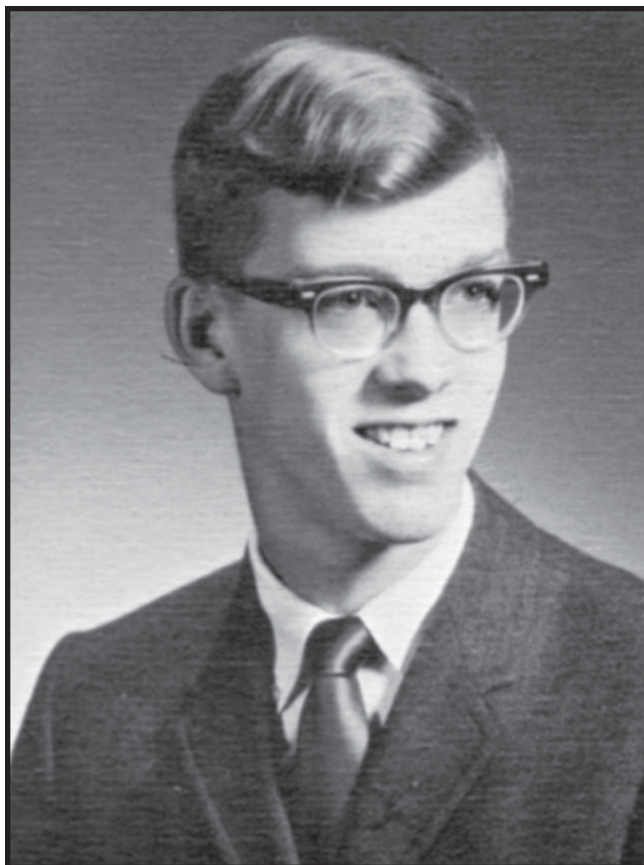


Watchung Hills Regional High School

Hall of Fame



Dr. Jerry Rife
Class of 1967

Jerry Rife has a musical gift. Many people have a musical gift, but not all can turn that gift into a career that they love, and at the same time also can enrich the lives of others. Dr. Rife has done that.

As a Watchung Hills Regional High student, Jerry was a member of the concert and marching bands as a clarinetist. But at some point in his high school days, Jerry decided that he wanted to break out of the crowd; music would be his life's pursuit and career. He attended Kansas State University and earned a degree in music education, focusing on the clarinet. He followed that with a PhD in musicology from Michigan State University.

Dr. Rife has taken his formal education and transformed it into a career and a lifestyle. He is currently a professor of music at Rider University, where he teaches music history courses and is the Director of Bands, and chair of both Music and Fine Arts.

Jerry has not confined his love of music to his educational career alone. He is an active performer on many levels – solo, recital, orchestra and jazz ensemble throughout the east coast of America. He has been an active member of the jazz band, The Rhythm Kings for more than 2500 performances. That's commitment.

Dr. Rife's musical pursuits are not only in the realm of performer. Under his guidance, the "Blawenburg Band" has grown in size and stature and performs over 30 concerts per year. He is also the Concert Master of the Virginia Grand Military Band and has guest conducted this organization on many occasions. He is a Sousa scholar and author, and has produced a 90-minute documentary on SOusa for PBS.

We welcome this gifted musician, Dr. Jerry Rife, to the Watchung Hills Regional High Hall of Fame.