

Col. Hal J. Gibson
2005
United States Army Field Band
Washington, D.C.

Special Award Division

Col. Hal Gibson has conducted concerts in all 50 states and in 36 foreign countries. The first person to be named Conductor Emeritus of the U.S. Army Field Band, Gibson also is the only person to be named Professor of Music Emeritus by the Georgia Board of Regents for Columbus College, now Columbus State University, a position he held for 15 years. He has achieved numerous honors during his career, including being selected to form, command and conduct the multi-service Department of Defense Bicentennial Band and receiving the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia International Orpheus Award.

Col. Gibson retired from the United States Army as the conductor of the United States Armed Forces Bicentennial Band, the nation's most elite military band. His career as a military musician began when, after returning from service in the South Pacific in WW II, he was elected to become the bandleader and commander of the newly formed 49th Armored Division of the Texas National Guard. This band quickly became known as one of the finest line bands in the Army of both active and reserve forces. The unit was twice awarded the Eisenhower Trophy, which is annually presented to a state's most outstanding unit. After being recalled to active duty with the 4th Armored Division Band in Germany, his band won first prize in international competition against 80 bands from 22 countries in both concert and marching competition. Colonel Gibson also served with the Military Academy Band at West Point and conducted the nationally acclaimed Cadet Glee Club. After being assigned as the commander and conductor of the Army's: "showcase" traveling Musical Ambassadors from Washington, D.C.-The United States Army Field Band, he was selected to conduct the Department of Defense Band that toured the country in 1975-76. This band later became known as the Bicentennial Band.

Prior to his military service, Colonel Hal Gibson also served as a high school band director in Texas. It was at this tenure of his career that he served as the high school band director for famed band composer, Frances McBeth.