

## BIO

**James H. Latimer**  
Professor Emeritus  
College of Letters and Science  
School of Music, Mosse Humanities Building  
455 N Park Street, Madison WI 53706



**Education:** 1957: BM Indiana University.  
1964: MM Boston University.  
**Extended Study:** Tanglewood Summer Music Project  
Harvard University

**Music Career:** 1957-1962: Instructor, Florida A & M University, Tallahassee FL.  
1963-1968: free-lance, Greater New England area (performed in over 30 symphonies up and down the coast).  
1963-1974: percussionist, Boston Pops Orchestra under Arthur Fiedler; percussionist and co-Founder, New Boston Percussion Ensemble; faculty, Camp Walt Whitman in New Hampshire. 1968-1999: University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music, assistant, associate and full professor of Music/Percussion; timpanist, Madison Symphony Orchestra. 1985-1987: Visiting Professor of Percussion, Radford University, Radford VA. 1999: Professor Emeritus status.

**Artistic Productivity:** 1963-1968: Free-lance performer in the Greater New England area (performed in over 30 symphonies); percussionist, New Boston Percussion Ensemble, toured with the Boston Ballet under Sarah Caldwell; developed and conducted the Greater Boston Youth Orchestra Percussion Ensemble; served on the summer faculty, Camp Walt Whitman. 1968-1974: toured and recorded extensively with the Boston Pops Orchestra under Arthur Fiedler; percussionist, New Boston Percussion Ensemble. 1968-1973: developed and conducted the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra percussion ensemble program and the WYSO brass and percussion ensemble program. 1968-1999: Numerous solo faculty recitals and guest solo and/or guest conductor appearances with symphonies and school music organizations. 1972-1978: Music Director and Conductor of the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra (two orchestras), developed a third orchestra, represented the State at the Kennedy Center's Parade of American Music (1976). 1972: initiated and coordinated the week-long *Duke Ellington Festival* featuring the entire Duke Ellington Orchestra. 1977: initiated, coordinated and hosted *Percussion Festival USA* which featured the percussion greats including Paul Price, William Kraft, William Ludwig and others. 1978 fall term: did extensive percussion research from coast to coast including personal interviews with the major professional percussionists in the country. 1968-1999: developed the undergraduate and graduate program in applied percussion, developed the University of Wisconsin-Madison percussion ensemble, directed the UW-Madison percussion ensemble in over 300 Young Audience performances throughout the state for school age audiences. Coordinator, 3 Ludwig Symposiums on campus featuring leaders of percussion from around the country such as William F. Ludwig, Saul Goodman, Marvin Dahlgren, Roy Knapp, Haskell Harr etc. 1978: Solo recital, premiere performance, Encounters VII (commissioned work by Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras, composer Bill Kraft in attendance). 1984: Fulbright Scholarship, included teaching western percussion at the Cairo (Egypt) Conservatoire, conducting the Cairo Conservatoire Orchestra; marimba soloist and guest conductor, Cairo Symphony. 1985: Sabbatical Study with Max Roach, NYC. 1985-1987: Visiting Professor of Music/Percussion, Radford University, Radford VA, developed the percussion program and percussion ensemble; gave 2 solo recitals; performed faculty ensemble. 1980-present: Founding member of the Madison Marimba Quartet, toured extensively throughout Wisconsin to Illinois, Oklahoma, Maryland and Washington DC. 1999: Developed and coordinated a three-day statewide Wisconsin Chapter PAS Percussion Festival. 1981-present: Music Director and Conductor of Wisconsin's only professional concert band, Capitol City Band; conductor of Madison's volunteer community band, the VFW Band. 2010: Collaboration with former student and author, Dr. Nimesh Nagarsheth, book, *Music and Cancer, a prescription for healing*. 2011: Premiere, original composition, Dane 175, music and dance of the Ho-Chunk Nation and the Capitol City Band. 2013: Invited to sit-in (drum-set) with the house band at the Cotton Club, New York City.

### Major Guest Conductor and Solo Performances

**Guest Conductor.** US Coast Guard Band; Milwaukee Symphony (young artist competition concert); Tulsa Philharmonic; Cairo (Egypt) Symphony; Racine Symphony; Madison Symphony (Four or more times, including concerts with Benny Goodman, Steve Allen, Sarah Vaughn, and young artist competition concerts. (Jim was timpanist for 31 years with Madison Symphony). **Soloist Performances** with: Milwaukee Symphony; Tulsa Philharmonic; Cairo (Egypt) Symphony; Racine Symphony; Madison Symphony (vibraphone soloist, marimba soloist and with the New Boston Percussion Ensemble)



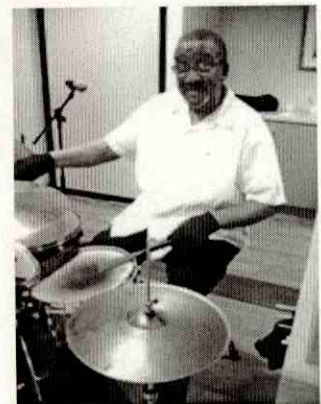
**Teaching:** taught various levels of percussion from fundamentals to music education majors, to applied performance at the graduate and undergraduate levels; supervised independent study projects. Developed and taught advanced courses in percussion literature and percussion for composition students, developed percussion master classes featuring the percussion guest artists performing at the UW Memorial Union Theater, and other guests including Max Roach, Joe Morello, Al Ipri, Alan Dawson, Roy Knapp, William F. Ludwig, Larry Kaptain, Steven Cornelius (TimeLine Percussion), the percussion ensemble NEXUS, and others.

**Compositions:** 1959: Drum Cadences, FAMU Marching Band. Epic of Man (brass and percussion ensemble, concert choir, FAMU Dance Department. 1964: Piermont (piano and choir, commissioned for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Piermont NH. 1960: Variations on the Westminster Clock Theme, solo timpani, Percussion Press. 1966: Psalm 139 (voice and piano) commissioned, Albert Danielsen Foundation, Boston MA. 1969: Drum Cadences, UW-Madison Marching Band. 1978: The Wonders of Physics Theme (Clint) for xylophone and piano, commissioned by UW Physics Department, Prof. C. Sprott. 1970-1995: several compositions/arrangements for percussion ensemble and dance. 1982-2000: several compositions/arrangements for voice and concert band. 1996: Amazing Grace, arranged for marimba quartet. 1997: Madison, commissioned for the opening of the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. 2011: Dane 175, commissioned, 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary Dane County/premiere Capitol City Band, Wisconsin Dells Singers and Dancers of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

**Service to the School of Music:** Served on the Faculty Senate and the following committees: Search Committees, Graduate, Educational services, Advisory to the Chair, Publicity, Scholarship, Applied Areas Executive, Budget Review, and ADA Accessibility Committees. Developed percussion projects for conducting, composition and history classes as requested. Participated in solo and faculty recitals and ensembles. Member of state, national and international music organizations including the national Percussive Arts Society and the Wisconsin chapter, Percussive Arts Society. Fifty year life member of AFofM, Wisconsin Federated Music Clubs, and Federation of Music. Member BMI and ASCAP.

**Service to the University:** Steering Committee and Development of the African American Studies Department, coordinated projects with the Dance Department, the Physics Department, Meat and Animal Science Department, African Studies Department. Participated in Round Table (faculty seminars). Processed Video Promotion Tape for Chancellor's Office and Alumni Association. Served on University-wide Honorary Degrees, Anonymous Fund, Knapp Bequest Fund, American Ethnic Studies, Race Relations and Search and Screen Committees.

**Service to the Community:** 1973-1975 Citizens for a (Frank Lloyd Wright) Civic Center. 1976-1996: Twenty-year active participant in Rotary International. 1976: State Representative, Bicentennial Commission. 1976-1978: State Representative, National Music Council. 1978: consultant, Wisconsin Foundation for the Arts, State Chair, National Black Music Colloquium. 1979: Representative, Project AIMS (Arts in the Madison Schools). 1988-1995: Review Panel and/or evaluator, Dane Cultural Affairs Committee. 1980-2000: music leader for Martin Luther King Jr. annual community celebration. 1990-present: Contributing member and producer, WYOU Community Television. 1995-2013: Board member, President and V. President, AFofM. 2000-present: Contributing member and producer for WOW, VHAT, FACTv, WDEE and VillageCable 12 Community Access Television stations.



**Listed in:**

Who's Who in Music  
 Who's Who in American Music  
 International Who's Who in Music  
 Wisconsin Men of Achievement

**Memberships:**

National Percussive Arts Society  
 WI Chapter, PAS (3 times president)  
 American Federation of Music, Life Member  
 Federated Music Clubs of Wisconsin

**Recognitions/Awards since 1978:** 1978: Sabbatical. 1984: Fulbright Award. 1985: Sabbatical. 1999: Lifetime Achievement, Wisconsin Chapter Percussive Arts Society (WIPAS); Chancellor's Certificate for 30+ years of service to the University. 2001: Mayor's Proclamation (Mayor S. Bauman), Outstanding Service to the City (Capitol City Band's 600<sup>th</sup> public service concert). 2003: Senior Service Award, Downtown Rotary International. 2006: Recognition-800<sup>th</sup> public service concert, VFW Band. Numerous proclamations, certificates and letters of commendation from County Executive (K. Falk), WI Dept. Veterans Affairs (J. Scocos, Secretary), VFW Post 1318 (J. Adams, President), Mayor (D. Cieslewicz), Governor (J. Doyle), Madison Veterans Council. 2006: Certificate of Appreciation, WI Dept. of Veterans Affairs, outstanding performance, Vietnam Touring Memorial, The Moving Wall, 2007: Outstanding Volunteer Service, WYOU Community Access Television. 2007: numerous proclamations, certificates and letters of commendation in recognition of 700<sup>th</sup> public service concert, Capitol City Band: Madison Common Council (T. Gruber, Alder, M, Verveer, President), Mayor (D. Cieslewicz), County Executive (K. Falk), Governor (J. Doyle). 2010: Medal of Merit and Certificate of Special Recognition (highest award given to a civilian by VFW) by Madison Veterans Council and National Association of VFW for community service. 2010: numerous proclamations, certificates and letters of commendation in recognition of 30 years as Music Director and Conductor, Capitol City Band and free concerts in the park – County Executive (K. Falk), Dane County Sheriff "Special Deputy" award (D. Mahoney), Mayor (D. Cieslewicz), Biddy Martin, Chancellor UW-Madison; Brian Whitty, President AFM Local 166; K. Black, Secretary, WI Dept. Veterans Affairs; R. Eubank, Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant General, Special Recognition. 2010: Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award. 2011: Outstanding Service to Music and Youth Organizations, Rabin Youth Award presented by Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras and Arts Wisconsin. 2011: Community Service Award, Optimist Club West, Madison. 2011: numerous proclamations, certificates and letters of commendation for 900<sup>th</sup> public service concert by VFW Community Band. 2013: numerous proclamations, certificates and letters of commendation for 800<sup>th</sup> concert by the Capitol City Band. 2014: Dane County United Way Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Community Service.

**Major Recordings:** 1968-1974: Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra. 1972-1976: Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra. 1982: Developing the Percussion Ensemble (VHS/DVD), UW-Extension Arts Development. 1984: *Something New*, CD, UW School of Music Faculty. 1985: *Small World (isn't it)*, LP/CD Peter Lund, Richard Davis, Jan Wheaton, Jim Latimer. 1995: *Phoenix of the Reddening Sky*, UW Dance Department VHS; *Capitol City Band Favorites* CD#ccb0195; *Madison Marimba Quartet*, (CD#mmq0195). 1998: *Medea*, CD, V. Tzoumerka-Knoedler, composer/Jim Latimer, conductor; *Madison Marimba Quartet* (CD#mmq0198). 1999: *Capitol City Band Encores* CD#ccb0198. 2003: *Journeys*, CD, V. Tzoumerka-Knoedler, composer/Jim Latimer, conductor. 2005: *Pleiades*, CD, V. Tzoumerka-Knoedler, composer/Jim Latimer, conductor. 2006: *Antigone*, CD, V. Tzoumerka-Knoedler, composer/Jim Latimer, conductor. 2007: *Karakorum*, CD, V. Tzoumerka-Knoedler, composer/Jim Latimer, conductor. 2009 *Ikaros*, CD, V. Tzoumerka-Knoedler, composer/Jim Latimer, conductor. 2011: *Kassandra*, CD, V. Tzoumerka-Knoedler, composer/Jim Latimer, conductor. 2000-2015: annual recordings (CD), Madison Marimba Quartet, Jim Latimer performer; annual recording(s), Capitol City Band (CD), Jim Latimer conductor.



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