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Clyde Barr, former Carlisle High School band director, dies

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Clyde and Lyn Barr during the Clyde and Lyn Barr Auditorium Dedication at Carlisle High School in 2011.

Clyde M. Barr, the director of a Carlisle High School Band that won a world championship in 1970, has died.

The Carlisle Area School District Board of Directors on Thursday evening confirmed Barr's death.

He was the school's band director from 1963 to 1978.

Barr "taught us to take pride in ourselves, not only in the way we looked, but in the way we acted, as well as the way we related to each other," Donna Myers, a flute and piccolo player for the 1970 championship band, said in a 2011 article in The Sentinel. "It's hard to explain exactly what it was about him."

The auditorium in the McGowan building of the high school was re-named to honor Clyde Barr and his wife, Lyn, in 2011.

Barr was a graduate of Lebanon High School and the U.S. Navy School of Music. Upon graduation from West Chester State Teachers College, Barr accepted a position as the assistant band director at Carlisle High School and later became band director.

During his time as band director of Carlisle High School, Barr organized the first band boosters organization, started the Galaxies high school jazz ensemble and led his marching bands to national recognition — at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the National Cherry Blossom and Apple Blossom parades, the Mummers Parade and the 1970 World Championship at the World Music Festival in Kerkrade, Netherlands.

During the World Music Festival, the band's field show received the highest number of points in the history of the competition — 175.5 out of 180.