

History of the AAMU

Woodwind Ensemble

Alabama A&M University (AAMU) was founded in 1875 by an ex-slave, William Hooper Council in Normal, Alabama have become known throughout the world for encouraging academic excellence among its diverse student body. The school is a member of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and is on the register of Historically Black College and Universities. The university is under the control of a board of trustees appointed by the governor, who serves as ex-officio chairman. Also sitting on its board are the president of the student government association and the president of the faculty senate, which the Conductor of the Woodwind Ensemble served for 23 years.



The Alabama A&M University Woodwind Ensemble started in 1972 under the direction of Dr. Doris Spooner Hall. The chairperson of the Department of Music Education was Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. who hired Dr. Doris Spooner-Hall. She was born on December 27th to Henry Spooner and Geneva Battley Spooner being their only child. They provided Dr. Hall with a thorough education in private and public schools throughout her life. She is supported by her husband Morris D. Hall and two adults Alex and Amy.



The Woodwind Ensemble historically has always adhered to the Music Program and supports the university's mission to provide students with opportunities to develop their aesthetic, social, intellectual and professional needs and interests, in line with the general objectives of the University. The woodwind ensemble shares the University philosophy that education should form the foundation of excellence in music education, and the creation of a scholarly environment in which inquiring and discriminating minds may be nourished.

The Woodwind Ensemble consisted of Music Majors in the Music Department in 1972 who played flute, oboe, bassoon, English horn, clarinet (bass, alto), and saxophone (alto, tenor, and baritone). The ensemble was an enhancement for students to learn playing in a smaller group and repertoire specifically composed for Woodwind Ensemble. The students played composition composed by Johann S. Bach, George F. Handel, Ludwig Beethoven, Wolfgang Mozart, and many other composers from different periods in music.

The students have also performed trios, quartets, and quintets. The woodwind ensemble grew in size during the years of the 70s, 80s, and was well developed in the late 1990s. However, the woodwind ensemble grew lavishly in the year of 2000 to continue a journey of great success, providing intimate and nurturing atmosphere that provides opportunities for individual attention and regular performance for students around the university and other programs in the city of Huntsville, Alabama. In 2003, the Woodwind Ensemble presented concerts in Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, Alabama at High Schools.



From 2004 through 2011, the Woodwind ensemble continuously flourish throughout Alabama and a large part of the university music groups. Some of the objectives of the Woodwind Ensemble are to provide a well rounded education of music dealing with other countries. In addition, the woodwind ensemble provides and enhances the student's knowledge of representative works of the past and present composers with technical proficiencies. Students have also learned musical expression through interpretations, history and lives of composers, common musical nuances, correct posture and positions, and performance techniques based on stylistic characteristics of periods and composers.

The Woodwind Ensemble continues to uphold the University motto:
"Service is Sovereignty"
in that we sometimes view music as a service profession.

