

earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education in 1960. While an undergraduate, he was awarded the *Outstanding Bandsman Award* and listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*. He received the Masters Degree in Music Education from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana and did further study at the University of Illinois. He received a scholarship to attend the first Cumberland Forest National Music Camp at Morehead State University. For Charles Bing, education was not only a way out; it was a way up the career ladder.

*It's not what you make, but what you do with what you make!*

Charles Bing used education to pursue and share his musical acumen extensively. Upon his graduation in 1960 he was hired to teach in the Florida A&M University Music Department where he worked diligently with unyielding pride for 45 years. He progressed through the faculty ranks to Associate Professor; served as coordinator of student advisement, chairman of instrumental music, associate director of the Marching and Symphonic Bands, director of the University Pep Band, and director of Brass Ensemble and Lower Brass Winds for the Symphonic and Marching Bands. He was a staff member of the FAMU Marching "100" Summer Band Camp and a founding member of the FAMU Chamber Brass Players.

A conductor extraordinaire, he served as guest conductor throughout the southern United States, conductor of the Florida A&M University ROTC Band, and director of Lower Brass Winds in the McDonald's All American High School Band. Additionally, he served as adjudicator and clinician for many competitions, and guest trombonist and consultant throughout Florida, Georgia and other southern states.

Professor Bing was distinguished because of his extraordinary work ethic, dignity and humility. Thus, he received numerous awards. Among them were Outstanding Service Awards for conducting the ROTC Band by the FAMU Military Science Department, as assistant director of the Symphonic and Marching Bands, and as director of the University Pep Band. He was recipient of the 1993 *Florida A&M University Teacher of the Year Award* and subsequently one of the first recipients of the *State of Florida Teacher Incentive Program Awards*. Among his most cherished moments was the establishment of the *Charles S. Bing Scholarship for Outstanding Musicianship*, which was initiated in 2004 by the Marching "100" Alumni Band Association.

Professor Bing's legacies reached beyond the campus of Florida A&M University through the students he helped to mold and shape, as well as the intellect and wisdom that he shared with his peers. Antonio C. Drayton, head drum major of the "Marching 100" attested that *He had a wealth of knowledge.* Dr. Julian White commended him for being "the glue that held the band and the band staff together." The Tallahassee Democrat Newspaper noted that he was a "Professor who expected Perfection." All of these characteristics permeated his membership in the Music Educators National Conference, Florida Music Educators Association, College Band Directors National Association, Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Florida College Music Educators Association, Florida Bandmasters Association and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity.

Charles Sampson Bing honored God by using his gifts and serving his fellow man well. He leaves many comforting and cherished memories to his dedicated wife, Bettye Bing, daughters: Melody Bing, Valerie Bing (Tory); son, Harmon Bing (Theresa); grandchildren: Christopher, Brittany, Destinee, Jai, Charlea, Jalen and Gianna; mother-in-law, Bernice Butts; Godmother, Annie Felder; siblings: Samuel Bing (Lula), Arthur Wright (Audrey), Carrie Hoffman, James Wright, Bernice Robinson (Robbie), Elva Adams, Marjorie Sledge and Vickie Felder; favorite nephews: Reginald Windham (Linda) and Ernest Hoffman; and a host of other devoted nieces, nephews, cousins, colleagues and friends.