

2006 CHS Hall of Fame Inductee - John Cacavas, Class of 1948

Achievements and awards at Central High School

None

Unique Contributions to Central High School

I founded the dance orchestra, "The Golden Blues," which played for school dances...I then formed my own professional orchestra and began playing extensively in the region.



Other achievements and awards (received elsewhere than Central High School)

After graduating from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, entered the Armed Forces and arranged with the United States Army Band in Washington, DC.

After the military, moved to New York and worked for CBS as an assistant conductor.

The family moved to London in 1970 and three years later moved to Beverly Hills

Wrote for television including: Kojac, Hawaii Five-O, Matlock, Columbo, Quincy, Buck Rogers in the 20th Century, Murder She Wrote, Mrs. Columbo, Switch, The Gangster Chronicles, Lady Blue, the Four Seasons and many others.

Scores for TV movies include: Time Machine, Murder by Reason of Insanity, Police Story II, Dirty Dozen II and III and The Return of Ironside

Scores for mini-series include: The Executioner's Song, Jenny's War, Perfect Murder Perfect Town, and A Death in California

Guest conductor with: London Symphony, BBC Orchestra of London, Atlanta Symphony, Radio City Music Hall Orchestra, The ?? Broadcasting Orchestra, Dutch National Radio Orchestra, Sinfonia of London, City of Prague Philharmonic, Florida Symphonic Pops and the United States Army Band



Published over 2,000 educational works in the American school music field

Inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame

Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters – Northern State University

Distinguished Alumni Award – Northwestern University

Recipient of the George Washington Honor Medal (with Charles Osgood) from Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge for the musical tribute to America, "The Golden Door"

Member of the South Dakota Film Commission

Other accomplishments

Second George Washington Valley Forge Freedom's Foundation award (with Charles Osgood) for "Gallant Men"

Grammy award, "Saga of the American Adventure" with Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen

Two-time Emmy nominee, "Kojak" and "Eischied"

Governor of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (music branch)

President of Composers' and Lyricists' Guild of America

ASACAP award as one of the five composers being most performed on television in 1985

Served 10 years on ASCAP's Board of Directors

Presently a member of the Music Branch Executive Committee, Motion Picture Academy

Additional information to share with the selection committee

Speaker at commencement address at Central High School and Northern State University

Wrote the Centennial South Dakota song (with Bonnie Becker Cacavas '51) for which we received the governor's award.