Sunday, June 8, 2014

Dear PCB Family,

Thank you for your beautiful performance at Tommy’s service. I have been to countless concerts and heard extraordinary groups but your music moved my heart in a way that no other ensemble has ever done.

You took off work in the middle of the day. You dressed in full concert black and then played with such emotion and musicianship. Simply put, the finest gift you could have given our family.

You played for a Who’s Who of the Texas Band World that day. Director after director came through the receiving line with words of praise for your choice of music and the professional way you played. Many had no idea of your high level of performance (and did you hear Dick Floyd remark that you were better than 2010?) Five directors asked me if you would be available when it was time to plan their own service. Not one of them had ever been to a service with a full concert band.

You were Tommy’s passion. His Music for Life. He spent hundreds of hours listening to recordings (at full volume), selecting literature that would challenge and entertain and then choosing the best concert order. He planned each rehearsal with the precision that Sherman put into the siege of Atlanta.

Monday was the best day of his week.

He prized the friendships he formed with each of you. Getting to know the person behind the instrument. The lawyer, the IT guy, the postman, the teacher, the retired band director, the salesman who traveled the world. Each tied to the other by the love of making music.

The mountaintop performances brought him home as high as a kite unable to sleep until the early morning hours. The ACB performances in Hot Springs, Pensacola and at the Eisemann brought pride that others recognized your growing commitment to excellence. Who that was there will ever forget the performance with Geoff Gallante? After a year of preparation there was a week of clinics and school visits that lead to a packed house for the concert. Over 1400 people treated Geoff and the band with rock star screams and thunderous applause.

And so, thank you. Thank you for choosing Tommy Guilbert 14 years ago as Artistic Director of the Plano Community Band. Thank you for your passion, your dedication and the selfless gift of your talent for Tommy.

All our love,

Denise and Family