

Watterson High School

PROFESSOR TO WRITE PIECE FOR LOCAL BAND

By GARY SEMAN JR.

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Illustration: Photo

Clintonville's history will serve as a backdrop for a musical composition for the *Clintonville Community Band*, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year.

Barry Kopetz, director of bands and professor of conducting at Capital University, has been commissioned to write the piece.

It will serve as the band's signature song. The band will fund the effort through two grants: \$1,000 from the Greater Columbus Arts Council and \$1,700 from the North Area Realtors Association.

The 52-year-old Kopetz said he will draw from the neighborhood's storied past -- both musically and otherwise -- for inspiration. He said he will pore over published records of Clintonville, as well as spend time in the neighborhood.

"I think whenever you write a piece that's for a specific community, one thing you try to do is understand the history of the area as much as you can," said the Gahanna resident.

Kopetz said the piece will be about eight minutes long, although he's under no time line to complete it. He said he doesn't have a name. "That's the hardest part," he said.

He said he has composed a variety of musical numbers for many entities, from Hollywood movies to school bands. Kopetz said he took on the Clintonville assignment after being contacted by Bob Lackey, president of the community band's board and a trombone player. Lackey said he looks forward to Kopetz's finished product.

"I hope when people hear it they will identify with what it's saying and they'll make a connection (to Clintonville)," Lackey said.

Kopetz received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State University. He was awarded his doctorate with distinction from the Indiana University School of Music. He has been a professor of music at the University of Utah, University of Minnesota, Bowling Green State University. He has also served as a music teacher for several public schools.

He said the genesis of compositions is never the same.

"Sometimes we derive inspiration outside of the music," he said. "Sometimes it's purely musical inspiration."

Les Susi, the former music director at Whetstone High School, co-founded the *Clintonville Community Band*, known then as the North Columbus Community Band. Rick Burkart is now director of the band and current music director at Whetstone

The concert band -- which includes woodwinds, brass and percussion

instruments -- caters to amateur musicians, Lackey said. The community band has about 50 active members and continues to grow. It plays several concerts a year.

Caption: Barry
Kopetz

This story ran on page 01A NEWS of *ThisWeek, Clintonville* edition on 05/27/2004.

All content herein is © 2004 ThisWeek and may not be republished without permission.