

# 'Music is my life'

## World-traveling jazz musician hasn't forgotten his Frankfort roots

By **PATTI GEORGE**  
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Jazz has taken Brooks Giles around the world, but he hasn't forgotten his Frankfort roots.

"Music is my life," Giles, a jazz saxophonist, said in a telephone interview from Hong Kong. "I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing if I had not gone to school (in Frankfort) and joined the band program."

If not for a single twist of fate, things might have been different.

Giles first picked up the tenor sax in the sixth grade at Hearn Elementary. Band director Rick Moreno had one tenor sax left, and it was meant for a student at another school.

"He saw that I really wanted the sax, so he said the other person could wait," Giles said laughing.

Moreno said Giles' talent was immediately apparent. "It was evident from the very beginning that he was going to be a great player," he said.

By his junior year at Franklin County High

School, Giles had decided to pursue a career in music. He played in the school's marching, concert and jazz bands, and was the marching band's drum major for two years.

Giles also noted the influence of other local band directors, including Clayton Fugett, a retired band director who also taught private lessons, and former band directors Rick Greenwood and Tom Brawner.

The camaraderie in the Franklin County band program helped shape Giles' love for music. His list of accomplishments is long for a man in his mid-30s, but he credits his experience in the Franklin County band program for it all.

He has performed for President Bill Clinton, the Royal Dutch family and former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, but the 40th anniversary of Franklin County High School's band program was also a part of his schedule last year.

In addition, he has assisted the program that

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