



## **FORWARD**

The group Forward, originally known as Ronnie Ward and Friends, began in the Spring of 2001 after Ronnie relocated to the Low Country. Ronnie met Gary at a high school math faculty dinner he attended with his wife. The two spent the evening discussing their love for playing and desire to do so again. They began jamming and inviting their teacher friends to play. The name was shortened to Forward (friends of Ronnie Ward) in 2005. Many have performed or sat in with Forward. They are educators first with a desire to keep the creativity flowing and do what they love – making music.

### **Ronnie - trumpet, percussion, and vocals**

Ronnie Ward was born and raised in Raleigh, NC. He received his bachelors in Music Education from Winthrop University and his masters in Music Education from the University of North Texas with a minor in jazz studies. He has had the pleasure of performing with Identity Crisis, Groove Posse, Chronic, Jon Faddis, Souled Out, Forward, and numerous jazz and college ensembles. His influences include jazz, rock, and anyone that played with Miles Davis. Ronnie currently plays with his Jazz group Forward and the rock group Souled Out. He is currently a middle school band director in Goose Creek.

### **Gary - guitar**

Gary McCue is a New Jersey native and an educator in the field of mathematics. He earned a B.S. in math education and an M.A. in mathematics at Appalachian State University. He started performing in the early 1970's as a guitarist in both his father's country & western band and an originals-based rock band. One year his bands provided entertainment at parties for a rural South Jersey county's Republican and Democratic conventions, C&W for the republicans, of course, and rock n' roll for the dems. Moving to the San Francisco Bay area provided a ten-year opportunity to continue working in a variety of styles in Bay Area clubs as well as to play on the streets for San Francisco tourists. A subsequent move to the beautiful North Carolina mountains led to a new opportunity to add bluegrass music to his repertoire and also a few years of duet performances with his wife. The move to his

current home near Charleston eventually led to the meeting with Ronnie Ward and Ronnie's gracious invitation to explore a long-standing appreciation for jazz.

**Bryan - saxophones, percussion, and vocals**

Bryan Ard is from Cheraw South Carolina and received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of South Carolina in the fall of 1999. Mr. Ard has served as a middle and high school band director at several schools in the state of South Carolina over the past six years. He is a saxophonist that has performed with numerous major ensembles over the past 8 years. Bryan writes marching drill for many South Carolina bands.

**Sid - keyboards and vocals**

Sid Haton, a native of South Carolina, has taught on the music faculties at the University of Oregon, University of South Florida, and Charleston Southern University. He has also taught music education in public schools of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. He recently completed his doctorate in music education at the University of Georgia. Other than performing with Forward, Sid also performs with the rock group Souled Out in his spare time. Currently Sid is teaching music at one of our fine state universities and is an avid writer and arranger.

**Kevin - bass, tuba, and vocals**

Kevin Gossett holds a music education degree from Furman University and Tuba Performance degree from Northwestern University. He has played bass since high school, largely self-taught. Originally from Spartanburg, his bass experience lies in the big band and rock and roll genres. Kevin is currently a middle school band director in Goose Creek, and choir director at Dorchester Presbyterian Church in Summerville. He also plays in the local rock and variety band, Souled Out.

**Brent - drums and vocals**

Brent Campbell, a native of Summerville, South Carolina, was educated in the Berkeley County School system. Mr. Campbell received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He has worked throughout the state as a performer, adjudicator, and a clinician. He currently performs throughout the Lowcountry of South Carolina for various society events and other functions with the jazz group Forward. He serves on the Jazz Committee for the South Carolina Band Directors Association and is a board member for the South Carolina Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society. He is currently a high school band director in Goose Creek South Carolina.