

Bassoons Across Nebraska Medium Bio



Bassoons Across Nebraska are members of the Omaha and Lincoln Symphony bassoon sections who seek to raise "Bassoon Awareness" throughout the region. The Bassoons work to perform music by Nebraska composers and to commission new works, and are artists with the Nebraska Arts Council Touring.

The Members of Bassoons Across Nebraska:

James Compton, Principal Bassoonist of the Omaha Symphony. Compton also serves as adjunct instructor of bassoon at University of Nebraska, Omaha. Compton has performed with the Tanglewood and Cabrillo Music Festivals. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California and attended the Juilliard School of Music.

Karen Sandene, 3rd/Contrabassoonist, Omaha Symphony and Second Bassoonist in the Lincoln Symphony, and a music instructor in the Lincoln Public Schools. Sandene studied bassoon at the UNL with Gary Echols and Albie Michlich, and contrabassoon with Bradford Buckley of the St. Louis Symphony. Sandene was instrumental in the founding of the Third Chair Chamber Players and the New Music Agency in Lincoln.

Dr. Jeffrey McCray, Principal Bassoonist, Lincoln Symphony and Assistant Professor of Bassoon at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. McCray studied at Northwestern, Temple and Michigan State University. An advocate of contemporary music, McCray has appeared as both bassoonist and conductor in contemporary music concerts throughout the United States.

Joyce Besch, Third/Contrabassoonist, Lincoln Symphony. Besch is also a member of the Nebraska Chamber Players and teaches bassoon at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Before coming to Nebraska in 2006, Besch free-lanced in Toronto, and performed with the Niagara, Kitchner-Waterloo, Windsor and Oshawa-Durham Symphonies.

Nick Nelson joined the Omaha Symphony as Assistant Principal and Second Bassoon in September of 2016. He has held positions with the Youngstown, Firelands, and Ashland Symphonies in Ohio, the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. He has also performed with the Louisiana Philharmonic, Austin Symphony, and l'Orchestre de la Francophonie. He holds degrees from the University of Texas, Northwestern University, and Cleveland Institute of Music where he studied with Kristin Wolfe Jensen, Christopher Millard, and John Clouser respectively.