

University of North Texas Brass Studios

Natalie Mannix

The University of North Texas College of Music is one of the world's largest and most respected music schools with a long list of distinguished alumni. Students have gone on to win Grammy Awards and hold positions in the world's leading orchestras, opera companies and military bands. Alumni also hold teaching positions at top universities and enjoy careers as successful jazz artists. UNT is a fully accredited programme offering bachelors to doctoral degrees and is home to the world's first jazz studies programme.

excerpt classes, pedagogy and literature courses and guest artist master classes.

Natalie Mannix and Steven Menard, Assistant Professors of Trombone; Brian Bowman, Coordinator of Brass and Regent's Professor of Euphonium; and Donald Little, Regent's Professor of Tuba.



Natalie Mannix.

The UNT College of Music is one of the two largest music schools in the country. Jason Bergman, trumpet professor, sees this as an advantage: "Being such a large studio brings experiences and opportunities that few other studios can replicate. A large music school offers as many varied ensemble experiences as you can think of and a large group of future

The UNT faculty is made up of top scholars and performers in the fields of performance, music education, conducting, composition, ethnomusicology, music history and music theory. The College's brass area prides itself in providing instruction on trumpet, baroque trumpet, horn, natural horn, trombone, bass trombone, sackbut, euphonium and tuba. Full-time faculty, hired for their extensive professional careers and outstanding teaching skills, head each of the brass studios. The brass curriculum consists of a well-rounded approach to education, encouraging each student to develop the highest standards of musicianship, professionalism and musical knowledge. In addition to weekly lessons, students participate in weekly departmental performance classes, chamber music,

colleagues who can be a support and network for your entire career." The diversity and wealth of ensembles offers something for every student. In addition to the traditional large wind and orchestra ensembles, UNT offers a great variety of specialty ensembles not often found in smaller schools: baroque ensembles such as the Sackbut Ensemble, nine large jazz lab bands, the U-tubes jazz trombone ensemble, brass band, Latin band, four trombone choirs, horn choir, trumpet ensemble, and tuba/euphonium ensemble.

Don Little, UNT tuba professor, describes the fine lineage of teaching at UNT: "I am a member of the second generation of the UNT brass professors who followed in the footsteps of the first generation North Texas brass professors. Our founding generation included John Haynie (trumpet), Leon Brown (trombone and euphonium), Clyde Miller (horn) and David Kuehn (tuba and euphonium). The second generation brass faculty includes Leonard Candelaria (trumpet), Keith Johnson (trumpet), John Holt (trumpet), Royce Lumpkin (trombone), Vern Kagarice (trombone) and William Scharnberg (horn). A special second generation brass faculty member is the more recent addition of our very first euphonium specialist - Brian Bowman."

The College of Music produces more than 1,000 concerts and recitals annually, enriching the North Texas community. Resources such as excellent concert halls, a large comprehensive music library, a music

The current faculty is a diverse combination of veteran members each with more than 30 years of teaching experience and more recent hires with less than three years at UNT. Trumpet professor John Holt believes that "having younger faculty and older faculty gives a sense of energy, expertise and vibrancy to the brass programme. I especially like the fact that there are numerous trumpet and trombone teachers, thus allowing students to learn different approaches to see what works for them." The faculty encourages collaboration and values a shared, collegial environment.

The current brass professors at UNT are John Holt, Chair of Instrumental Studies and Professor of Trumpet; Jason Bergman, Assistant Professor of Trumpet; William Scharnberg, Regent's Professor of Horn; Tony Baker, Professor of Trombone;



Brian Bowman.



Tony Baker.

computer lab and recording services support the scholarly, performance and research needs of students and faculty.

Along with the education available at the UNT campus, students have access to one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States, with the the Dallas and Fort Worth Symphonies, the Dallas and Fort Worth Operas, the Dallas Winds, many regional orchestras, a vibrant jazz scene, many visiting ensembles and musicals. The Northern Texas school system contains an abundance of excellent band and orchestra programmes. UNT students often supplement their income and develop their teaching sectional and private lessons in area schools.

The following is a more detailed look into each brass studio at UNT.

Trumpet Studio

The trumpet studio is led by veteran, John Holt and recent hire, Jason Bergman. Professor Holt, a critically acclaimed recording artist with eight solo CDs, is also recognized for his wealth of orchestral experience ranging from principal trumpet at the age of 24 of the Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino under the baton of Zubin Mehta, to his current tenure with the Dallas Opera Orchestra, a position he has held since 1989. Dr. Bergman joined the UNT faculty in 2015. His recent solo CD, "The Lightning Fields" (MSR Classics) has been named a "Silver Medal Winner-Outstanding Achievement" in the Global Music Awards instrumentalist and emerging artist categories. He has performed with groups such as the Santiago Philharmonic in Chile, the Mobile Symphony and the Gulf Coast Symphony.

Each week trumpet students can attend either or both professor's studio class, a combined trumpet department hour, two early morning fundamental classes and an excerpt seminar. "Students have an opportunity for a weekly applied lesson, and also to attend the studio classes, excerpt classes, fundamental routines and other rehearsals. Students can have up to



Bill Scharnberg.

8-10 hours a week with direct trumpet faculty contact. That's pretty unique and special," explains Jason Bergman. The trumpet studio hosts numerous guest artists each semester. The UNT Trumpet Ensemble is a very active performing group, performing recitals and competing in numerous contests. UNT will be hosting the National Trumpet Competition on campus in 2018.

The trumpet studio has a long history of excellence dating back to John Haynie and continuing with Leonard Candelaria and Keith Johnson. There are alumni around the world performing, teaching and serving as leaders in the field. Students who attend UNT are immediately a part of that tradition and family. For more information, visit the trumpet studio web page at trumpet.music.unt.edu.

Horn Studio

The UNT horn studio has had only two teachers in 64 years: Clyde Miller for 30 years and Regent's Professor William Scharnberg for 34 years. Scharnberg earned the DMA degree at the University of Iowa and has been principal horn of the Dallas Opera Orchestra for 32 years and Wichita Falls Symphony for eight years. He has performed as principal horn with many orchestras including the Royal Opera of Stockholm and on natural horn with the Dallas Bach Society. He has been President of the International Horn Society and, since 2003, has been Editor of its journal *The Horn Call*. He has recorded on Crystal, Centaur and

EcoClassics labels, has published editions of horn music, has commissioned many new works for horn and has hosted two International Horn Symposia.

With a horn studio that ranges from 35 to 50 students, he emphasizes singing on the horn and encourages the horn students to develop a solid foundation to their approach to the horn - to be smart, flexible and well-trained musicians. This has certainly worked for his students, who have gone on to hold positions in professional orchestras, military bands and universities. In his tenure at UNT Dr. Scharnberg also lends his pedagogical experience in teaching Brass Pedagogy and coaching brass chamber music.

The horn students participate in a weekly studio class/horn choir where topics specific to horn performance are discussed. Each student has the opportunity to perform in the horn choir, brass and/or woodwind quintet and an orchestral excerpt class. When available, guest artists are welcomed to perform recitals and offer master classes. For more information on Dr. Scharnberg and the Center for Chamber Music Studies, visit his web page at <http://music.unt.edu/faculty-and-staff/william-scharnberg>.

Trombone Studio

The UNT trombone studio has a long continuing tradition of excellent teaching and successful students. Past teachers include Leon Brown, Royce Lumpkin, Steve Weist and Vern and Jan Kagarice. Current professors, Tony Baker, Natalie Mannix and Steve Menard share a wide array of performing experience including



Jason Bergman.



John Holt.

orchestral, band, jazz and chamber music. The UNT trombone studio is one of the world's largest. At nearly 70 members, trombone majors have an opportunity to play in one of four trombone choirs, nine trombone quartets and nine lab bands, in addition to the college's large and small ensembles.

"One of our strong suits is the size of our programme," explains Tony Baker. "The students are able to work with all three professors through chamber music, orchestral excerpt classes, trombone choir and private lessons. They benefit from the variety of our collected experiences while learning and performing with each other. Though we are large in numbers, our desire is to work together as one big family." All trombone students, of any age, level or major, have an opportunity to participate in trombone chamber music, choir, orchestral excerpt classes and to study with a professor. The UNT Trombone Consortium (formerly known as the UNT Trombone Choir) is a multi-international award winning ensemble whose members have gone on to teach at some of the finest university music programmes and start their own award-winning trombone ensembles.

Notable trombone alumni include jazz trombone artists Steve Turre, Conrad Herwig and Tom "Bones" Malone, orchestral trombonists Mark Davidson and Jeremy Wilson, college professors Don Lucas and Tom Ashworth, and a wealth of military band musicians. For more information, visit the UNT trombone web page at trombone.music.unt.edu.

Euphonium Studio

The UNT euphonium studio, led by international solo artist, Brian Bowman, has produced an abundance of successful alumni. This competitive studio attracts students from all over the world to learn from Dr. Bowman's wealth of experience as a soloist, recording artist and educator. He has held principal euphonium positions with the U.S. Navy Band, The U.S. Air Force Band and the River City Brass Band and has been internationally recognized as one of the top euphonium soloists and pedagogues in history. Perhaps one of his most impressive accomplishments is the record number of students winning jobs



Steven Menard.

with the top military bands in the country. As many as 18 alumni have held positions in the last ten years. Numerous euphonium students have also won top international solo competitions, including the International Falcone Competition, the Potomac Tuba/Euphonium Festival and the International Tuba Euphonium Conference Competition.

Dr. Bowman is a devoted pedagogue, impressing upon students the development of a characteristic and beautiful tone quality first and foremost. Euphonium students play in small and large tuba/euphonium ensembles and participate in a weekly departmental performance class in addition to applied lessons. For more information, visit the UNT euphonium web page at euphonium.music.unt.edu.



Don Little.

Tuba Studio

The UNT tuba studio has been taught by Don Little for the last 40 years. His passion for teaching and mentoring is evident in an impressive list of student achievements. Recent graduates are competition winners, full time college professors and orchestral tubists representing The Hague Orchestra of Holland, the Orquesta del Principado de Asturias of Spain, the Mississippi Symphony,

Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Memphis Symphony, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Breckenridge Festival Orchestra, Disneyworld, the US Coast Guard Academy Band and the US Navy Band, among others.

Drawing on the experience of an impressive performing career with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Worth Symphony, and the Dallas Opera Orchestra, in addition to the education he received at The Peabody Conservatory, Eastman and Northwestern, Mr. Little explains: "I am strongly influenced by "song and wind" concepts from the teachings of my influential teacher, Arnold Jacobs, but I lean primarily towards the significance of the song aspect of music more than anything else. In my teaching, I strongly emphasize the value and importance of singing vocally in addition to playing the tuba."

He believes in an education that goes beyond that of the university. To gain orchestral experience, he organizes studio trips to area professional orchestras, such as the Dallas Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony and Dallas Opera Orchestra. The tuba studio also hosts national and international guest artists and organizes departmental mock orchestral and band auditions every semester. Tuba students also perform in small and large tuba/euphonium ensembles. For more information and to access a variety of pedagogical exercises for low brass, visit the tuba studio web page at tuba.music.unt.edu.