

About the Artists

Eric Plewinski, *percussion*

Eric Plewinski received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of South Florida. During his Tampa, FL residency, he performed in various theater productions and as an orchestral percussionist with The Florida Orchestra and the Southwest Florida Symphony. Eric was also a member of the national touring ensembles backing operatic tenor Michael Amante and Grammy award-winning Broadway singer Bernadette Peters and can be heard as a member of the McCormick Percussion Group on Music For Keyboard Percussions, The Music of Gui Sook Lee, and Concerti for Strings With Percussion Orchestra all of which are distributed through NAXOS.

Eric completed his Master of Music degree at the University of Maryland, College Park where he studied with the principal percussionist of the National Symphony Orchestra, Eric Shin. Additionally, he has studied with Jauvon Gilliam and Tony Ames. In 2019, Eric will serve as acting principal percussion of the Charlottesville Opera Orchestra. Previously, Eric has performed with such groups as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Orlando Philharmonic, Virginia Symphony, Maryland Symphony, Virginia Opera, Washington Chorus, Congressional Chorus, New Orchestra of Washington, Great Noise Ensemble and regularly with GRAMMY-nominated, Inscape Chamber Orchestra. Eric has participated in multiple summer festivals including the National Orchestral Institute and four summers at the AIMS festival in Graz, Austria. Eric is currently on faculty at Washington College, Robinson Secondary School and West Springfield High School.

Alain Truche, *Organ*

Dr. Alain Truche currently serves as the Director of Music at Saint Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, MD. He has held various church positions in Winston-Salem, NC; Taipei, Taiwan; Scranton, PA; and Lincoln, NE. While in Scranton, he also served as the dean of the Northeast Pennsylvania chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He received his Master of Music degree from Indiana University and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His teachers include Marilyn Keiser and George Ritchie.

As an active recitalist, Truche has performed in various venues in Asia, Europe and U.S. Chief among all, Eglise Saint-Paul and the Abbaye in Marmoutier in Strasbourg France, home of the world renowned 18th-century Silbermann organ. He also has performed the organ concert at the Northeast Pennsylvania Bach Festival hosted by the Arcadia Chorale and one of the alumni organ concert at his alma mater, Central Michigan University. While living in Taipei, Taiwan, he was invited to play recitals at Aletheia University, Fujen University chapels and Jingmei Baptist Church. He has performed at the National Concert Hall in Taipei. Truche was a finalist at the AGO Region V organ competition in 2000 and the Arthur Poister organ competition in 2007 held in Syracuse, NY.

Neal Brown, *trumpet*

Trumpeter Neil Brown enjoys a multi-faceted career as a performer, educator, composer, arranger, and band leader. Currently a member of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, Apollo Orchestra, Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra, Tryos Ensemble and Trio illumino, Neil can frequently be heard playing with many Washington D.C. area ensembles including the National Philharmonic, Maryland Symphony, and New Orchestra of Washington. He is also the founder, principal composer, and trumpeter for the classical, jazz and rock

influenced group Phonic Wrinkle. Originally from Guilford, Connecticut, Neil earned Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of Maryland and was a member of the United States Navy Band in Washington D.C. from 2009-2013. He attended the National Orchestral Institute, Colorado College Summer Music Festival, Las Vegas Music Festival, and Boston University Tanglewood Institute. As an educator, he has performed numerous educational concerts, presented masterclasses at both the university and high school levels, served on the faculty of the Suitland Performing Arts High School and the Sheridan School, and leads a private trumpet studio. Neil's teachers include Chris Gekker, Steven Hendrickson, and Allan Dean.

Nathan Clark, *trumpet*

Principal Trumpet, Nathan Clark received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Maryland in College Park. Prior to this he also spent time studying at Nyack College in Nyack, NY, and York College of Pennsylvania. He has had the privilege of learning from some of the Eastern Seaboard's leading trumpet players and pedagogues, including Donald Tison—long-time Principal Trumpet of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; Thomas Smith of the New York Philharmonic; the National Symphony Orchestra's Steve Hendrickson; and freelance artist and teacher, Chris Gekker. As a member of The United States Air Force Ceremonial Brass, Nathan performs at high level protocol functions both Nationally and Internationally, and can be seen on National TV at the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in NYC. Mr. Clark maintains a busy freelance career in the DC Metro area, and has the distinction of being a primary substitute trumpeter for the Kennedy Center's National Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his position as Principal Trumpet of The Apollo Orchestra, Nathan is also Principal Trumpet of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra. He regularly performs with many of the area's regional orchestras: the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the New Orchestra of Washington, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, and the National Philharmonic. An active performer and advocate of brass chamber music, Nathan is a founding member of the Barclay Brass ensemble, a vibrantly innovative group which performs throughout the DC metropolitan area. In his free time Nathan enjoys playing volleyball, climbing, running, and cycling.

Willie Clark, *tuba*

Tubaist, Willie Clark is a member of the United States Air Force "Ceremonial Brass" in Washington D.C., principal Tubist of the National Philharmonic and was a founding member of the professional Disney tuba quartet, "The Tubafours". Mr. Clark received his Bachelors Degree studying with Fritz Kaenzig at the University of Illinois and a Masters Degree studying with David Zerkel and Fred Mills at the University of Georgia. From the Fall of 1998 to 2003, Mr. Clark served on the adjunct faculty for Stetson University. He has also served on the adjunct faculty for Bethune-Cookman College. As a performer, Mr. Clark has toured the United States, South America, Australia, China, Japan, and eighteen countries in Europe. During these travels he performed with the China National Symphony, the Empire Brass for the Campos do Jordao Winter Music Festival, Melbourne International Brass Festival, and USA Tour Concert. Mr. Clark has also performed with the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, Sam Rivers' RivBea Orchestra, the Brass Band of Battle Creek and Keith Brion's New Sousa Band. In 1986, Mr. Clark was Featured on the Chicago radio station WBEZ performing, "The Flight of the Bumblebee". As a soloist, Mr Clark has been featured in front of the United States Army Orchestra, the Empire Brass, Brass of the Potomac and Keith Brion's New Sousa Band. Mr. Clark served as a low brass clinician on the European Tour with the American Wind Symphony Orchestra. You can hear Mr. Clark on the Tuba 4's CD, "Under the Boardwalk". He has also recorded with the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, the United States Air Force Band, Alfred Publishing, Warner Brothers, and Electronic Arts.

Justin Drew, *horn*

Dr. Justin Drew is Lecturer of Horn at the University of Maryland School of Music where he teaches undergraduate horn lessons, coaches brass chamber groups, and serves as the director of the University of Maryland Horn Choir. A busy freelance performer, he serves as the solo horn for Arena Stage, Third Horn of the National Philharmonic, Principal Horn of the Gourmet Symphony, Second Horn of the Apollo Orchestra, and appears frequently with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Maryland Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed with the National Symphony Orchestra and numerous groups up and down the East Coast. Dr. Drew serves on faculty for the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras, Potomac Valley Youth Orchestras, and the Washington Brass Institute Summer Boot Camp.

Dr. Drew also has extensive experience performing with Chamber Music groups. He has recently performed with Barclay Brass, one of DC's up-and-coming brass ensembles. From 2012 to 2018, he regularly toured across the U.S. with the Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass. In July 2015, he served as the hornist for a brass quintet residency held at the University of Maine. He has also performed with Boston Brass, Carolina Brass, and he has joined many quintets with premiere military musicians in the DC area. In 2007, Drew performed with the legendary late oboist Ray Still and musicians of the "President's Own" Marine Band in a performance of Mozart's Piano Quintet in Eb. He has also appeared in chamber performances on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage and at the Strathmore Mansion.

Dr. Drew can be heard on four albums. His first solo album, *The Corno D'amore*, will be released Fall 2019 under the label Arts Laureate. In March 2016, he recorded the album *Journeys* with the United States Air Force Band. In January 2014, he joined the Grammy-nominated Inscape Chamber Orchestra to record their second album, *American Aggregate* on the label Sono Luminus. As a result of being a finalist with the West Point Band in 2012, he performed as 4th horn on their first recording project in HD surround sound under the multi Grammy Award-winning label Reference Recordings.

Dr. Drew is a dedicated teacher with over 17 years of experience. In addition to his duties at the University of Maryland, he has an advanced private teaching studio based in Potomac, MD. Prior to joining the faculty at UMD, he served as adjunct faculty for University of Maryland Baltimore County for five years. His principal teachers include Gregory Miller, Denise Tryon, Suzanne Gonsalves, and Wanda Whitener. He has also been highly influenced by studies with William VerMeulen, James Ross, Eric Ruske, and Phil Munds.

A native of Scarborough, ME, Dr. Drew grew up in a family influenced by music. He began his musical studies on the trumpet, and performed at the Annual Key Bank Jazz Festival with notables such as Dave Brubeck, Cleo Laine and Wynton Marsalis. Although jazz trumpet was a passion of his, he decided to make French Horn his focus mid-way through completing a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Maine. He received his Master's in Music Performance in 2007 and his D.M.A. in Music Performance in 2019 from the University of Maryland.

Katie Thigpen, *trombone*

Katie Thigpen, native of Charleston, SC, is a freelance trombonist and educator in the Washington, DC area. She received her Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music where she studied with Tim Anderson. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree in music education from the University of South Carolina where she studied with Brad Edwards and received the Robert Van Doren Award for Most Outstanding Senior in music education. Most recently she has studied with Per Brevig, faculty at The Juilliard School and retired principal trombonist of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and Craig Mulcahy, principal trombonist of the National Symphony Orchestra and faculty at the University of Maryland.

As an educator Dr. Thigpen maintains a studio of private students in the metropolitan DC area. She teaches low brass students at DeMatha Catholic High School, Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School, International School of Music, and with the DC Youth Orchestra Program. During the summer Dr. Thigpen is on faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, Michigan. Before joining the faculty at Blue Lake she was the director of their middle school camp, Camp Bernstein, and also worked as a camp counselor. Next summer will be her tenth at Blue Lake.

Dr. Thigpen performs regularly with various chamber groups and orchestras in the DC area. She has performed with the National Philharmonic, Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, West Virginia Symphony, York Symphony Orchestra, Amadeus Orchestra, Great Noise Ensemble, Brass of the Potomac and the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra. As a fellowship recipient she spent two summers at the Aspen Music Festival and School where she performed under the baton of several notable conductors such as David Robertson, Larry Rachleff, Leonard Slatkin, Nicholas McGegan, and Robert Spano. As a featured soloist with the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Staff Band in 2009 and 2010 Dr. Thigpen performed Paul Creston's Fantasy for Trombone and William Goldstein's Colloquy. In 2013 she won the Eastern Trombone Workshop National Solo Competition.