

Bob Syverson

City of Residence: Waukesha

Instrument: Trumpet

How long have you been with Concord? 24 yrs.

What is your earliest musical memory? Playing a trumpet solo at age 5 at a middle school band concert.

What got you interested in music, and what was your involvement growing up? My Dad was my school band director and my Mom was a music minor in college so they were a major influence. I participated in the public school band program in my hometown, went to high school music camps, toured Europe with the International Music Camp European Tour Band, and was 1st chair in the All-State High School Honors Band.



Why do you perform with Concord? Concord, being a chamber orchestra, provides an opportunity to perform music that larger orchestras don't often perform. Also, and perhaps most importantly, to rehearse and perform with a group of musicians who participate solely for the opportunity to make music.

What has been the high point of your involvement with Concord? There are several but perhaps soloing with the orchestra.

What do you do for a living? I'm now a retired music educator. Prior to retiring I taught all areas of public school music, i.e. band, orchestra, chorus, and general music. They were in a variety of settings: public schools, parochial schools, a juvenile detention center, and a Native American Indian Reservation. I was also music department chair at the district level for one of the public school districts in southeast Wisconsin for 15 years. During that time I played trumpet professionally and taught private trumpet students. Currently I teach private trumpet students who have gone on to study trumpet at the Eastman School of Music in New York as well as others. I also perform as lead trumpet with the [Jazz Express](#) big band and my own brass group, [The Nordic Brass](#).

Tell us about your family? My wife, Lynn, is retired from being a Technology Integrator in the public schools and sings with the [Jubilate Chorale](#). My son, Robb, is a high school math teacher and performs with the band [Dirty Boogie](#). My daughter-in-law, Jenny, works for a CPA firm and my grandson, Ashton, is in 2nd grade.

What are your hobbies besides practicing and playing? Running marathons, biking, weight-lifting, fishing, going on ocean cruises, boating and writing/arranging music.

What is your favorite recording? I really don't have a single definite favorite as there is so much music in so many different styles. It would be more about having favorite artists, and most of them would have to be trumpet players. Having said that, I enjoy any of the Chicago Symphony recordings with Bud Herseth playing principal trumpet. On the jazz side, Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, Bill Chase.

Who is your favorite composer? Again, it's hard to pick just one. Too many great ones and I enjoy so many different styles of music.

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I had a White House security clearance and performed at the White House with the United States Army Band (Pershing's Own)

What is your advice for kids who are interested in music? In all of my years of teaching music I have never met an adult who was glad to have quit playing their musical instrument. Therefore, my advice is "don't stop." Not everyone wishes to become a professional musician and they don't have to be in order to enjoy making music. There are so many opportunities to play/perform at all different levels. If for no other reason to continue, "You will meet great people."