



Name: Kent A. Tess-Mattner

City/Town of Residence: Wauwatosa

Instrument: Trombone

How long have you been with Concord? At least 23 years, perhaps more.

What is your earliest musical memory? Memorizing the words to “Away in a Manger” for the church children’s choir.

What got you interested in music, and what was your involvement growing up? My parents played lots of light classical music/jazz music like “An American in Paris,” “Slaughter on Tenth Avenue,” and “Rhapsody in Blue” at home and challenged us to do active listening (like listening for the gunshot in “Slaughter on Tenth Avenue”). In addition, my mother got us signing in the car early on, and frequently led Sunday School singing while strumming on an autoharp.

Why do you perform with Concord? It is, in my opinion, the best all-volunteer orchestra in the area, and it gives me the opportunity to play wonderful music. I also enjoy the camaraderie of the musicians, conductor, board members and business manager.

What has been the high point of your involvement with Concord? Playing John Rutter’s *Gloria* at St. Josaphat’s Basilica with a dynamite trombone section. It is a brass player’s dream come true.

What do you do for a living? I am an attorney by day so I can afford to be a musician by night.

Tell us about your family? I am married to an alto singer who is a long-time member of the Master Singers of Milwaukee. Our daughter Amy plays the bass trombone and is a graduate of the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music. She is married to the trombone player she sat next to in the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. I have bought P-Bones (plastic trombones used in many marching bands) for each of my two young grandchildren.

What are your hobbies besides practicing and playing? I enjoy travel, wine tasting and collecting, gourmet cooking, and riding my bicycle.

What is your favorite recording? The *Revolver* album by the Beatles.

Who is your favorite composer? Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. No one, except perhaps Richard Wagner, has ever written more glorious brass parts. I pick Tchaikovsky over Wagner because I also love listening to his use of Russian folk music in the woodwind and strings while I am counting rests waiting to come in loudly on the brass parts.

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I also play, after a fashion, the harmonica.

What is your advice for kids who are interested in music? Find a teacher who is a good musician but also knows how to teach children, and is creative in finding the best way to bring out the most in you as a student. Listen to recordings of the finest players on your instrument and try to copy their sound. And practice, practice, practice!