

Ricky L. Spears, Jr., DMA

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Trumpet Artist & Music Educator

Professional Highlights

- Accomplished and multifaceted trumpeter with extensive performing experience in orchestral, commercial, jazz, chamber, and film music.
- Highly sought-after trumpet teacher, known for developing versatile and motivated trumpet players. Compiled trumpet practice routine book, *The Successful Trumpeter*, which is popular with students and professionals across the country.
- In addition to collegiate studio, maintains a private studio of 10 high school and adult students, from all-state principal players to retired comeback players.
- Current/former students regularly perform in national Broadway tours, orchestras, military band, theme parks, drum corps international, local pit orchestras, polka bands, and concert bands; compete as finalists in National Competition; and pursue graduate degrees.

EDUCATION

University of Oklahoma 2017-2023

Doctor of Musical Arts in Trumpet Performance

- [Dissertation](#): "A Pedagogical Study and Set of Recommendations Based Upon the Experiences of Three Trumpet Players Who Recovered from Bell's Palsy: Before, During, and After"
- [Lecture Recital](#): "Kevin McKee's Trumpet Compositions as Pedagogical Tools"

Eastern Kentucky University 2009-2011

Master of Music in Trumpet Performance

Morehead State University 2001-2008

Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Music Education

COLLEGIATE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, OK 2019-present

Assistant Professor of Trumpet/Director of Bands

- Courses taught
 - Applied Trumpet, majors and non-majors
 - Trumpet Masterclass
 - Brass Methods
 - Marching Band Techniques
- Ensembles Directed
 - "Sound of the Storm" Marching Band
 - Symphonic Band
 - Jazz I
 - Jazz II
 - Basketball Pep Band
 - Trumpet Ensemble
 - Chamber Ensemble

- Accomplishments
 - Grew trumpet studio from 1 to 12 students in just a few years.
 - Led successful efforts to grow instrumental music program; including organizing recruitment events such as the SNU High School Honor Band and SNU marching band's Day With the Band.
 - Grew jazz program; added second jazz band in 2021.
 - Created SNU Trumpet Ensemble in 2017 and SNU Student Brass Quintet in 2020.
 - Instituted SNU Veterans Day event with Trumpet Ensemble; event has grown to include groups from across campus.
 - Led band in service activities, including facilitating Oklahoma State Fair Band Competition.
 - Developed connections within the community to bring SNU ensemble performances to the library, city events, schools, and churches.
 - Established partnership with Oklahoma Homeschool Bands to include homeschool musicians in collegiate ensembles as an outreach and recruitment tool.
 - Overhauled music jury process to involve all applied adjunct faculty and increase level of performances.
 - Works closely with choir director to produce joint Jazz Band and Choir opportunities- including concerts with guest artists and in-house studio recording of student groups.
 - Regularly include guest speakers and clinicians to work with my students, such as touring Broadway pit musicians and seasoned music educators.
- Additional Campus Involvement
 - Chair of instrumental music department; leads applied instrumental faculty, including assisting with hiring of adjuncts and delegation of adjunct duties
 - Coordinates instrumental music audition days
 - Manages band financial accounts
 - Serves on SNU Ed Prep Council
 - Serves on SNU Athletic Committee
 - Manages/Contracts Pit Orchestra for School Musicals

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 2018 – 2020

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Trumpet

- Directed 2019 OU Trumpet Ensemble
 - Group won first place large ensemble at National Trumpet Competition
- Taught applied trumpet to majors and non-majors
- Taught trumpet section of Brass Methods course
- Jazz Band rehearsal substitute instructor

Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, OK 2018 – 2019

Adjunct Director of Jazz Band

Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, OK 2017 – 2019

Adjunct Professor of Trumpet and Horn

Rose State College, Midwest City, OK 2017 – 2019

Adjunct Professor of Brass

- Grew studio from 2 to 10 members

Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 2011

Director of University Jazz Lab

- Initiated second jazz band, created as an intro to jazz curriculum

Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 2008 – 2011

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Trumpet Jazz Music Theory

- Taught applied trumpet to majors and non-majors

- Taught Music Theory I
- Substitute instructor for graduate-level theory courses

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Orchestral, Ensemble, & Chamber Music

British Brass Band of Louisiana , Shreveport, LA <i>Principal Solo Cornet</i>	2024
Lawton Symphony Orchestra , Lawton, OK <i>Substitute Trumpet</i>	2023-present
Talk of the Town Jazz Orchestra , Oklahoma City, OK <i>2nd Trumpet</i>	2023-present
Oklahoma Composers Orchestra , Oklahoma City, OK <i>2nd Trumpet</i>	2022-present
Oklahoma Film Orchestra , Oklahoma City, OK <i>2nd Trumpet</i>	2022-present
Oklahoma Community Orchestra , Edmond, OK <i>3rd Trumpet</i>	2020-present
Enid Symphony Orchestra , Enid, OK <i>Substitute Principal Trumpet</i>	2019-present
Crossings Community Church Orchestra , Oklahoma City, OK <i>Principal Trumpet</i>	2016-present
Sacred Winds Ensemble , Kentucky <i>Principal Trumpet</i>	2008-present
Symphony of Northwest Arkansas , Rogers, AR <i>Substitute 3rd Trumpet</i>	2018
Fort Smith Symphony Orchestra , Fort Smith, AR <i>Utility Trumpet</i>	2018
Frontier Brass Band , Edmond, OK <i>Soprano, Bb Cornet, Flugelhorn</i>	2016-2021
Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra , Portsmouth, OH <i>2nd Trumpet</i>	2015
Lexington Opera House , Lexington, KY <i>Trumpet</i>	2009, 2018-2019
BlueBrass Quintet , Lexington, KY <i>Principal Trumpet</i>	2008-2014
Lexington Brass Band , Lexington, KY <i>Soprano, Bb Cornet, Flugelhorn</i>	2008-2014
Bluegrass Wind Ensemble , London, KY <i>Principal Trumpet</i>	2004-2008, 2021
Brass Band of the Tri-State , Ashland, KY	1998-2008

Soprano, Bb Cornet

Touring/Regional Productions

Big League Tours: International Broadway Tour "A Chorus Line", Shanghai, China	2019
<i>First Trumpet</i>	
Big League Tours: National Broadway Tour "A Christmas Story", US Tour	2016-2018
<i>First Trumpet</i>	
Dragone: "Taboo" Cirque Du Soleil, Macau, China	2015-2016
<i>Solo Trumpet</i>	
Palace Theatre: "Westside Story", Manchester, NH	2014
<i>First Trumpet</i>	
NetWorks Tours: National Broadway Tour "ELF", East Coast Tour	2014
<i>Lead Trumpet</i>	
NetWorks Tours: National Broadway Tour "Beauty and the Beast", US Tour	2013-2014
<i>Trumpet</i>	
Royal Caribbean Cruise Line "Dave Koz Smooth Jazz Cruise", Barcelona, Spain	2012
<i>Lead Trumpet</i>	
Phoenix Rising Entertainment "Hooray for the Holidays", Lake Geneva, WI	2010-2011
<i>First Trumpet</i>	
Centre Stage Theatre, Louisville, KY	2009-2011
<i>First Trumpet</i>	
Jenny Wiley Theatre, Prestonsburg, KY	2008-2016
<i>First Trumpet</i>	

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Crossings High School Music Festival, Oklahoma City, OK	2024
<i>Judge, High School and Middle School Concert Bands and Jazz Bands</i>	
Oklahoma Intercollegiate Honor Band	2021-2024
<i>Judge, Trumpet</i>	
Oklahoma All-State Trumpet Auditions	2021, 2023
<i>Finals judge</i>	
Sacred Winds Ensemble, Kentucky	2008-present
<i>Personnel Manager</i>	
Miles of Jazz Orchestra, Kentucky	2008-present
<i>Founder and Bandleader</i>	
Gilliam Music, Norman, OK	2017-2019
<i>Print Music/Sales</i>	
Jenny Wiley Theater, Prestonsburg, KY	2008-2016
<i>Assistant Music Director and Personnel Manager</i>	
BlueBrass Quintet, Lexington, KY	2008-2016

Founder, Manager, and Director

Don Wilson Music Company, Lexington, KY

2008-2013

Retail Salesman

Summer Music Academy, Morehead, KY

2008-2011

Counselor

GUEST ARTIST/CLINICIAN APPEARANCES

KMEA District 9 Jazz Festival, Pikeville, KY

Upcoming April 2024

Guest Clinician, KMEA District 9 All-district Jazz Ensemble

University of Louisiana Monroe, Monre, LA

2024

Guest clinician, lessons, masterclasses

William Adam International Trumpet Festival, Marshall University

2023

Presenter: "Young Students and Their Teachers",

Coordinator: Trumpet Ensembles

William Adam International Trumpet Festival, University of Oklahoma

2022

Presenter: "Teaching Young Students"

Coordinator: Trumpet Ensembles

William Adam International Trumpet Festival, Virtual Event

2021

Panelist: "How Weight Loss & Gain Can Affect Trumpet Playing"

Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference

2019

Guest Soloist and Clinician, Boyd County High School Jazz Band

Premiere performance of "An Jeweli" for Solo Trumpet and Big Band

William Adam International Trumpet Festival, various locations

2017-2019

Coordinator: Trumpet Ensembles

Raceland High School Jazz Band, Raceland, KY

2016

Guest soloist and clinician

Macau International School, Macau, China

2016

Guest clinician, lessons, masterclasses

Boyd County High School Band, Ashland, KY

2015

Guest soloist and clinician

Conkwright Middle School Band, Winchester, KY

2014

Guest soloist and clinician

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA

2013

Guest instructor and clinician

Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY

2011

Guest instructor and clinician; Symphony Band, Middle School Honor Band

Shelby County High School, Shelbyville, KY

2006

Guest instructor and clinician; Concert Band

RECORDINGS/NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Oklahoma Community Orchestra, Jerry Herman Broadway Tribute Show <i>Third Trumpet</i>	2024
Oklahoma Composers Orchestra, World Premiere of “The Unicorn’s Birthday and “The First Day” <i>Second Trumpet</i>	2023
Oklahoma Film Orchestra: “Celtic Woman” 20th Anniversary Album, Onyx.Lane and Timberlake Studio <i>Second Trumpet</i>	2023
Crossings Community Orchestra, Prism Music Recordings, Jay Rouse-Arranger <i>Trumpet, on Collections: Worthy, Stand, and Believer</i>	2018-2022
“Cube of Light” Visual Album, Onyx.Lane and Timberlake Studio <i>Second Trumpet, Cube of Light</i>	2021
Dave Koz - Smooth Jazz Cruise, Barcelona, Spain <i>Lead Trumpet</i>	2012
RPM Productions, Charlotte Thanksgiving Day Parade TV Theme <i>Recorded all 4 trumpet parts</i>	2012
RPM Productions, Disney Theme Parks - Veterans Presentation <i>Recorded all 4 trumpet parts</i>	2011
“Fired Up! For Five Trumpets, by David Roth <i>Trumpet 5, Fired Up!</i>	2010

SELECTED ARTISTS PERFORMED WITH

The Temptations	Kyle Dillingham
The 4 Tops	Susan Powell
Wycliffe Gordon	Sherman Andrus
Dave Koz	Steve Amerson
Michael Lington	Lucas Ross
Brian Culbertson	Irv Wagner
Cassy McIvor	Rich Ridenour
Sandi Patty	Paul Stephens
Jay Rouse	Mark Ridenour

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Oklahoma City Federation of Musicians, Executive Board Member	2022-present
Heartland Homeschool Band and Strings, Vice President	2022-present
Oklahoma Bandmasters Association	2022-present
Oklahoma Jazz Educators	2022-present
Oklahoma Music Educators Association	2019-present
International Trumpet Guild	2016-present
National Trumpet Competition	2004-present
Kentucky Music Educators Association	2002-2011
International Association of Jazz Educators	2002-2007
Phi Mu Alpha Music Fraternity	2002-2005

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT SUCCESS

National Trumpet Competition, Texas A&M Kingsville <i>College sophomore invited to live round in Undergraduate Solo Division</i>	<i>Upcoming March 2024</i>
Cher Show, U.S. Tour <i>Private student currently performing on lead trumpet</i>	Nov. 2023-present
OkMEA Intercollegiate Honor Band, Tulsa, OK <i>Eleven instrumental music students accepted, 2 winning principal chairs: trumpet and euphonium</i>	2024
Kings Island Theme Park, Mason, OH <i>College freshman/7-year private student performed lead trumpet in 70's Revue Show</i>	Summer 2023
OkMEA Intercollegiate Honor Band, Tulsa, OK <i>Eleven instrumental music students accepted, 2 winning principal chairs: trumpet and French horn</i>	2023
395th Army Band, Mustang, OK <i>College freshman trumpet student auditioned for, and serves in U.S. Army Reserve Band</i>	2022-present
OkMEA Intercollegiate Honor Band, Tulsa, OK <i>Eleven instrumental music students accepted, 1 winning co-principal trumpet</i>	2022
National Trumpet Competition, University of Delaware <i>One private student advanced to the semi-final live round in the High School Solo Division</i> <i>Private Studio High School Ensemble advanced to the live semi-final round.</i>	2022
National Trumpet Competition, Cancelled due to Covid-19 <i>Two private students advanced to the semi-final live round in the High School Solo Division</i> <i>Private High School Studio Ensemble advanced to the live semi-final rounds</i>	2020
National Trumpet Competition, University of Kentucky <i>Private High School Studio Ensemble placed 2nd in Pre-college Ensemble Division</i> <i>Coached University of Oklahoma ensemble, who placed 1st in the College Ensemble Division</i>	2019

PRIMARY REFERENCES

Dr. Karl Sievers, Retired Professor of Music, Trumpet, University of Oklahoma
karltrumpet55@gmail.com | 405-664-4735

Dr. Scott Bersaglia, Music Director, Sacred Winds Ensemble & Grace Baptist Church, Somerset, KY
scott@sacredwinds.org | 734-277-4244

Dr. Eric Siereveld, Assistant Professor of Music, Trumpet, University of Louisiana-Monroe
siereveld@ulm.edu | 606-356-0227

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Jim Graves, Associate Professor & Director of Choral Activities, Southern Nazarene University
jgraves@snu.edu | 405-473-9441

Dr. Justin Croushore, Assistant Professor of Music, Trombone, Morehead State University
j.croushore@moreheadstate.edu | 859-462-2196

Dr. Robin Sweeden, Adjunct Professor of Double Reeds, Southern Nazarene University
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Greg Wing, Retired Professor of Music, Trumpet, Morehead State University
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Dr. Adria Sutherland, Assistant Professor of Music, Clarinet, Eastern Kentucky University
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