

Dean McCarty, Bass Trombone

Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: I primarily play bass trombone for the SOST, but I have also played tenor trombone the past few years. Outside of the SOST I actively play alto, tenor, and bass trombones, tuba, euphonium, and percussion.

Q: When and how did you get started in music?

A: My older brothers played in the public school band in south Texas... So for me it wasn't IF I would be in band... Instead it was WHAT would I choose to play???

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: I moved to Beaumont from San Antonio in 1997. I called Wayne Dyess (principal trombone back then) and asked about subbing with the group... I timed it just right... Two weeks later there were auditions for a permanent position... I won the audition and have enjoyed every season!

Q: Educational background?

A: I have my Bachelor of Music with a concentration in jazz and commercial music from McNeese State in Lake Charles. I received my Texas education certificate from Lamar University.

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: I have many influences... But I would say that Jimmy Pankow, trombonist of the rock band "Chicago," is my biggest influence. His playing was my reason for playing trombone in the beginning. His writing has influenced my commercial writing tremendously over the past 20 years.

Q: What is your "day job?"

A: I am one of the band directors at Buna ISD.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: I am very involved at my church, Calvary Baptist Church, in Beaumont. I serve as the orchestra director and also write for the choir and orchestra. I have been in the recording industry for over 20 years. I've had the opportunity to back up many superb artists and have been involved with 3 Grammy nominated projects and 1 Grammy winning project. Several of my arrangements have also been recorded over the years.

Outside of playing instruments... I am an avid gun collector and shoot regularly. I love the outdoors, especially the beach, having grown up near South Padre Island. I am also a rabid fan of the San Antonio Spurs! Go Spurs Go!!! But my favorite thing is spending time with my family, which includes my wife, daughter, her husband, and my precious granddaughter!

Q: Favorite music?

A: As a brass player this may seem strange... But my favorite piece of music is Barber's Adagio for Strings played by the New York Philharmonic conducted by Bernstein. Anything played by Stan Getz (tenor sax) is just the best! And for commercial music I really enjoy the groups Toto, Chicago, and Earth, Wind, and Fire.