

Rod Lauderdale, French Horn



Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: I play Horn! Often we call it French Horn, but there is nothing French about it. I think we call it that from the introduction of the Horn to the British music scene during the Baroque. Louis XIV loved the hunt as an activity of the court and associated with that were hunting horns. So the French court had great hunting horn players. These valveless instruments were about 12 feet long and were vastly different than the British counterpart, which is little over a foot long. As much of the music activities of the British court were greatly influenced by the French/German composers that used this 12-foot-long Cor de Chasse/Waldhorn, there were no homegrown players of this instrument. They imported them from France. So the term French Horn really implies the Horn-players from France.

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

A: Thanks to Mom. As a young boy I loved to sing. I sang in church choir as a boy soprano. I continued singing with the San Francisco Boys Chorus. While in the SFBC I sang with the San Francisco Opera and it was there that I was drawn to the sound of the Horn. And I've played Horn ever since.

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: In 2006

Q: Educational background?

A: University of North Texas – DMA in progress (ABD) Horn Performance; Southern Methodist University – MM in Orchestral Conducting; California State University, East Bay – BM (Horn and Conducting)

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: Too many to list.

Q: What is your “day job?”

A: I teach in the Department of Performing Arts at McNeese State University in Lake Charles.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: Music is my vocation and hobby. I love sharing my music with others in any way that I can. I play in 4 regional orchestras in over 30 concerts a year. I conduct the Lake Charles Community Band in 6+ concerts a year. I have a wife, Susan, and a daughter, Dallas, that both play Bassoon. Susan and Dallas both play with me in several of these regional orchestras in Louisiana. (Lake Charles Symphony and the Rapides Symphony in Alexandria). Additionally Susan plays with me in the Acadiana Symphony in Lafayette. During the summer I am the Director of Musical Activities for the Governor's Program for Gifted Children. I love home gardening and home brewing.

Q: Favorite music?

A: I love all music that respects the concept of tonality. I particularly enjoy the Romantic style of music. Not just those of the Romantic period (1820 – 1900), but the new music found in movies that often follow the same style.