

Meet the Orchestra

As a community orchestra, our members come from all walks of life, and have a wide variety of skills and interests. So that we can share this fascinating diversity with you, we've asked our members to tell a bit about themselves.

Cheryl Ann Blackley, woodwinds. I've been performing with the Salt Lake Symphony since at least 1992 as first-call auxiliary/substitute woodwind player. I can usually be found anchoring the end of the clarinet section playing Eb soprano or bass clarinet, or (way cool!) alto or tenor saxophone; though I have also been found hanging out in the percussion section or on the other side of the stage lurking in the double reeds.

I am a life-long resident of Davis County, Utah, graduating from Viewmont High School in 1978 and from Utah State University in 1988 (after changing majors numerous times), *cum laude* and *phi kappa phi*, with degrees in Science, Music Education and Music Composition. I am an active freelance musician throughout Northern Utah performing on various combinations of reed instruments (and even conducting) in ensembles large and small, from full orchestras and bands to small chamber groups, various sizes of ensembles for musical theater (my greatest love), and as *Wyldwood*, solo instrumentalist. In the summer, I can often be caught performing in the time-honored tradition of a busker at many Farmer's Markets in cities all along the Wasatch Front.

I am Owner and Music Coach of S & D Music Studio in Woods Cross, providing private short and long term coaching sessions on clarinet, saxophone, oboe, and bassoon for students at all levels, and specializing in college scholarship preparation. I also offer professional music engraving/notation and arranging services; and I am also a commissioned and award-winning composer.

I still live in Woods Cross, in the home where I was raised and where my studio is located. I share the home with my retired parents, and their dog Chloe, a Bouvier des Flandres, rescued from San Antonio, Texas. When I have the time, I love to cook and bake, work in the garden, read "hard" sci-fi novels, and assist as a member of the chase crew for my brother's off-road desert racing team.

To read more about my musical adventures and my coaching/teaching philosophy, you are cordially invited to visit my website at www.sdmusicstudio.com.



David Spencer, viola. I was exposed to classical music at an early age. My father played viola in the Utah Valley Symphony and he loved classical music. I grew up hearing Tchaikovsky and Sibelius during car trips. I started violin lessons at age nine. One day, my Dad took me to a UVS rehearsal, and I was fascinated. I ended up going to several rehearsals just to listen and watch. My first orchestra experience was in Junior High School. The string ensemble had no violists, and I ended up switching to viola. I have enjoyed playing in orchestras ever since. As a teenager, when someone would ask me what my favorite group was, I'd say, "Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra." I really enjoy playing the music. Being inside, in the middle of it all, is a thrill. I particularly like 20th Century and newer music. A couple of years ago, the Salt Lake Symphony played the Poulenc *Concerto for Two Pianos in D Minor*, and I remember thinking how great it was to be in the middle of all that sound. I also enjoy jazz fusion and bluegrass.



Outside of my favorite avocation, music, I am an Ophthalmologist (eye Doctor /Surgeon) and practice in Murray. I am married with three children; my oldest also plays viola. I also like amateur high-power rocketry. For those unfamiliar with this hobby, it is like the model rockets you see done in your neighborhood park, but a lot larger and louder. My biggest rocket project so far was a two-stage scale model that was 16 feet tall, 10 inches in diameter, and weighed about 50 pounds. I enjoy building them and watching them fly.

Mike Walterman, bass trombone. My musical odyssey began at the tender age of 8, when my father bought home an old cornet from a pawn shop. This particular instrument had a wad of something stuck in it, and I had to blow rather hard to get a somewhat normal sound out of it. When I joined the school band in sixth grade, and was given my own trumpet, I had a tendency to play rather loudly—due to a lack of any obstructions in this new instrument. It was mistakenly decided that I was overpowering the trumpet due to my physical size, and that a bigger instrument was in order. Thus began my journey into the world of low brass. My teachers, who bear full responsibility for my style of playing, were Jay Main (Junior High Band Director and an amazing trombonist) and Frank Crisafulli (second chair trombone in the Chicago Symphony and professor of low brass at Northwestern University).

Why do I play in the Salt Lake Symphony? The group hits a musical sweet spot. Many of the players possess the technical acumen of highly skilled professional musicians, and have managed to retain their passion for the music and the audience. Often, this rare combination results in performances of intensity and verve that are all too rare in the professional and academic ranks.

What are my favorite orchestral works? My favorite composer is Ottorino Respighi. His tone poem *Roman Festivals* is a real barn burner! It is best heard as a live performance. My favorite orchestral CD is *Strictly Genteel - A "Classical" Introduction to Frank Zappa*. It is unlike any Zappa you may have heard before.

What is my day job? My area of professional expertise is in mathematical modeling and software development for image processing, computer graphics, and machine learning. I work for the United States Forest Service – Remote Sensing Applications Center in Salt Lake City. Prior to my current employment, I worked in the fields of medical imaging and simulation, cinematic special effects, and flight simulation.

My current hobbies are music and hike & fly paragliding (climbing mountains and then jumping/gliding off using a paraglider). When given the opportunity, I enjoy panoramic photography, scuba diving, windsurfing, backcountry skiing and pizza.



Zeph Smith, percussion. I have been playing with the Salt Lake Symphony since 1989, my senior year at Highland High School. I am joined in the orchestra by my father Paul, who plays with me in the percussion section, and my mother Margaret, who plays in the bass section and is also a member of the board of directors. My grandmother, Nan Shulz, can usually be found taking tickets at concerts. Along with my duties as principal percussionist, I have been stage manager for many seasons. I am responsible for setting up the chairs and stands at concerts, and also renting and transporting equipment for outdoor concerts, and for our annual Salt Lake Symphony Vienna Ball.

Outside of the orchestra, I am currently remastering my solo piano CD entitled *Journey of the Heart*. I work as a math professor at Salt Lake Community College.

I am married to Trisha Holt and have two kids.

Benjamin is 7 years old and Abigail is 3. Benjamin is taking piano lessons. Ben and I play duets, with me on the xylophone. We are practicing to play at Christmas parties this year. I am thankful that music runs deep in my family and I am looking forward to more years of service and fun with the Salt Lake Symphony.