

John Palmer

Trombone



John graduated from Queen's University in 1976 with a B.Mus. For the next 14 years, he was a trumpet player with the Kingston Symphony, pit orchestras for local musicals and a regular performer with other groups in Kingston and Brockville where he taught music at a local high school.

In 1990 John switched to Trombone and since 1993 has been the Bass Trombonist in the Kingston Symphony (with a brief stint as itinerant percussionist in there somewhere). John was one of the founding members of the Kingston Symphony Brass Quintet about 20 years ago. Many of the charts that the quintet plays are his arrangements.

He has also written arrangements for his wife's Woodwind Trio (The Classically Hip), and for woodwind Quartets and Quintets. John has arranged music for 2 stage musicals and has been the music director for a number of others. While in Brockville, he performed with, and was musical director of, the Brockville Concert Band and the Brockville Operatic Society. Other groups he has performed with include the Quinte Symphony and The Greg Runions Big Band.

In 2005, John and a few friends from the KSO formed BrassWerks, an orchestral brass ensemble. The group performs a series of concerts each year, with the emphasis on presenting great music and having fun.

As the trombonist in The Kingston Symphony Brass Quintet John also develops performances/presentations for elementary schools. The quintet visits many schools in the Kingston area each year under the auspices of an Ontario Arts Council grant and performs at a wide variety of functions and in various Concert Series in and around Kingston.

John teaches theory, harmony, trombone, tuba and euphonium at his home in Kingston and has been spending more time composing and arranging in the last few years. He was recently commissioned to write a fanfare for the 40th anniversary of The National Music Camp of Canada where he teaches trombone each summer. For each of the past three years he has won the Humboldt State University (California) Brass Workshop Composition Competition.

John is also the conductor of Orchestra Kingston, a new community orchestra that has been formed here in Kingston.