

2024 REW MUSIC FESTIVAL

MEET OUR GUEST CLINICIAN, ANDREW STRAIGHT



Andrew Straight is an accomplished Tenor Trombone player, conductor, and educator with a distinguished career in music education, band, orchestral, jazz, and chamber music performance. He served as Principal Trombone in notable orchestras, including the Austin Civic Orchestra and The Classical Symphony Orchestra in Chicago. He has also served as a substitute with the Abilene Philharmonic and Round Rock Symphonies in Texas. Andrew has received several awards and won the Abilene Collegiate Orchestra Concerto Competition in 2002, leading to additional solo performances with the Abilene Christian University Wind Ensemble. Andrew has participated in many trombone choirs, including Too Many Trombones in

Denver and the Central Texas Civic Trombone Choir at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. He loves jazz and has performed with the Austin Swing Orchestra at the Elephant Room and in several jazz combos. In addition to his accomplishments on the trombone, Andrew is a brass expert, having performed professionally on the Trumpet, Euphonium, Horn, and Tuba. In addition, Andrew has extensive chamber and musical theater experience, performing in Off-Broadway productions at the Georgetown Palace Theater in Texas, producing and arranging for musicals at the Jones Theater in Colorado, as well as performing and conducting several musicals with the ACU Theater department, including *Seussical*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Oliver*, and *Kiss Me Kate*.

Originally from Bloomington, Illinois, Andrew's musical journey has taken him from Illinois to Ohio, Texas, Colorado, and Kansas. His pursuit of musical excellence led him to Abilene Christian University, where he studied conducting under the baton of J. Eric Wilson (Baylor University) and trombone performance with mentors like Natalie Steele (Iowa State University), Don Lucas (Boston University), and John Kitzman (Dallas Symphony Orchestra, retired). Andrew has had the privilege to teach and conduct middle and high school level Concert, Marching, and Jazz Bands as Director of Bands at Custer County School, conductor of the Sangre de Cristo Community Band in Westcliffe, Colorado, and previously as Associate Director of Bands in the Leander Independent School District in Cedar Park, Texas.

After retiring from teaching in 2020, he completed a Master of Science in Software Design & Programming from the University of Denver. His continued commitment to musical excellence led him to be mentored by renowned musicians such as Nathan Zgonc (Atlanta Symphony) and Brian Hecht (Dallas Symphony). He is currently the conductor of the REW Homeschool Band Wind Ensemble in Lenexa, regularly performs at Christ Church Anglican in Overland Park, and resides in Shawnee with his wife, Elanor, four children, two cats, and two dogs.