

Tom Sherwood



My original plan was to play professional baseball. Due to my lack of athleticism, that didn't work out so well. Then the plan was to become a band director. That plan was interrupted when I was "discovered" by a famous German horn soloist during my sophomore year as a music education student at Baylor University. Several years after transferring to and completing a Bachelor of Music Performance at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, I won a national audition to become Associate Principal Horn with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

That original dream and passion (not the baseball one but the one of becoming a music educator) has always found its expression in my life. For example, in 2000, my wife and I co-founded Art & Soul on Vine, an after school arts program for inner city youth living in Over the Rhine (this was well before OTR's renaissance). Also, throughout my career, I've welcomed elementary and middle school horn students into my home studio. Not only did this satisfy my love for music education, I believe it added greatly to my skills as a teacher as it usually takes far more creativity to teach those students who are struggling than those to whom it seems to come easily.

My teaching philosophy is simple, *take time to build relationships with students--it's not always about the horn*. Often, an effective teacher needs to be part life-coach and part psychologist. Finally, playing music should be fun! That's why it's called "playing" an instrument, not "working" an instrument! If it's not fun, I may not be doing my job!

Career Highlights:

- Performing under the batons of music directors Jesús López-Cobos, Paavo Järvi and Louis Langrée.
- Performing under the direction of Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, James Conlon, Roger Norrington, Leonard Slatkin, just to name a few.
- Performing as Principal Horn of the South Bend Symphony and Second Horn of the Springfield (IL) Symphony Orchestra.

Teaching Experience:

- Professor of Horn at Miami University (OH).
- Professor of Horn at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music
- Adjunct Professor of Horn at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in Bloomington.
- Private Instructor at Beechwood High School in Kentucky.
- Masterclasses and recitals at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Ohio State University, Kent State University, CCM, and the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

Primary Horn Teachers:

- Hermann Baumann, Arnold Jacobs, Roland Pandolfi & Robert Fries.

"I should be sorry if I only entertained them. I wish to make them better." --George Frederick Handel