



The Musicians



Dr. Bret Wagner was raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where he began playing the euphonium in public school. His love for performing and teaching music lead him to pursue a bachelor's degree in music education at Arizona State University, a master's degree in music performance from the University of Miami (Florida), and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Arizona. Dr. Wagner has performed with the Salt River Brass Band (Tempe, AZ), the New World Symphony (Miami Beach, FL), and Crystal Cruises. Currently, Dr. Wagner teaches general music in the Roosevelt School District in South Phoenix.

While attending Arizona State and the University of Miami, Dr. Wagner studied with and worked closely with Sam Pilafian, a prolific tuba player and brass pedagogue, who unfortunately passed away in 2019. Mr. Pilafian's influence, practices, and vision continue to drive Dr. Wagner's work. While attending the University of Arizona, Dr. Wagner was also fortunate to be able to study with Dr. Matthew Tropman, an acclaimed euphonium and tuba soloist whose expertise refined Dr. Wagner's approach towards excellence in euphonium performance and teaching.

Dr. Wagner's studies and research have led him to develop a vision for music education that is more accessible to all people from all walks of life. As a general music teacher, he continues to broaden his focus by gathering, modernizing, and developing resources for his students' wide variety of interests, backgrounds, and goals. Dr. Wagner strives to set an example for his students not just as a professional musician, but also as a curious learner of other instruments, cultures, and the ways in which music can be integrated into all areas of people's lives.



Stephen Schermitzler has been studying music for nearly 30 years, and has been a Valley mainstay as a professional singer and collaborative pianist. He earned his BFA in Music Composition at Arizona State University, studying with pianists Walter Cosand, Dr. Hamilton Tescarollo, and Dr. CaioPagano. He has served as collaborative pianist for Arizona State University, Arizona Christian University, and Montclair State University, and is a staff pianist for both local and national NATS (National Association of the Teachers of Singing) voice competitions. His eclectic performance career has taken him to the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Australia, and throughout the United States, including performances at the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, and most recently at Eagles: Hotel

California 2021 Tour, Phoenix. Stephen is the current Director of Music at Church of the Beatitudes, where he is the Founder and Executive Director of the Sing Phoenix! Choral Festival, a weekend-long celebration of various living choral composers and their masterworks. Featured composers have included Dan Forrest, Mark Hayes, and Morten Lauridsen. Notable musical theatre achievements include Musical Director for Detour Theatre Company, a non-profit theatre organization for adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities, and Music Director, both at The Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre in Mesa, and at Hope Summer Repertory Theatre in Holland, Michigan