

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Joel Pugh

Joel Pugh is the Teaching Associate Professor of Low Brass at the University of North Dakota and performs in the Dakota Brass. In addition to teaching trombone, euphonium, and tuba, he directs the North Dakota Trombone Octet and coaches the Tuba Ensembles. Dr. Pugh has performed extensively throughout the United States on euphonium and trombone, playing in solo, chamber, wind band, orchestral, and brass band settings. Some of his solo performances include recitals at The University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, The University of Minnesota, Brandon University, the University of South Dakota, and East China Normal University. Concerto appearances in recent years include the Grand Forks Symphony, UND Wind Ensemble, UND Chamber Orchestras and the Dakota Brass, at the 2021 Great Plains Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference at Drake University. He directed the UND Trombone Octet in their performance at the 2022 International Trombone Festival, Central Arkansas University. Additionally, he accompanied the UND Trombone Quartet to Shanghai, China where he led masterclasses, conducted chamber concerts, and performed solo recitals. This past June, he served on the faculty, for the Orvieto Musica Tuba Euphonium Fest, in Orvieto, Italy, performing solo pieces, and playing in the Faculty Tuba Quartet. He has given presentations at the International Trombone Festival, the International Tuba Euphonium Conference, the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and numerous state Music Educator's conferences. He has been published in the International Tuba Euphonium Association and Brass Band Bridge journals. He holds degrees from Michigan State University, Bowling Green State University, Ithaca College and teaches at the International Music Camp. Joel Pugh is a Courtois and Besson performing artist.

Jack Smukowski

Jack Smukowski is a recent graduate of the University of North Dakota, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Commercial Aviation with a minor in Music. Initially, he studied trombone under Dr. John Froelich before continuing under the direction of Dr. Joel Pugh at UND. During his time at UND, he was an active and dedicated member of numerous ensembles, including the UND Trombone Quartet, Trombone Octet, North Dakota Trombone Choir, Student Brass Quintet, Pride of the North Athletic Bands, and the UND Wind Ensemble, in which he served as trombone section leader.

Jack has also performed with the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra and appeared with the UND Trombone Octet in their featured recital at the 2022 International Trombone Festival at the University of Central Arkansas. He presented his senior recital in 2024 and has participated in masterclasses with various artists, including Dr. Eric Ewazen, Anthony Plog, and Dr. William Sutton.

Outside of music, Jack is a Certified Flight Instructor with UND Aerospace, pursuing a professional career in aviation while continuing to remain active as a performing musician.

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UND UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH DAKOTA



November 13, 2025 | 6:30 pm

Northwood Performing Arts Center

November 17, 2025 | 7:30 pm

Josephine Campbell Recital Hall | Hughes Fine Arts Center

PROGRAM

Empire Fanfare (2001)

Eric Ewazen
(b. 1954)

Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578 (1703-1707/1995)

J.S. Bach
(1685 - 1750)
Arr. Ron Barron

Morceau Symphonique, Op. 88 (1902/2022)

Jack Smukowski, trombone

Alexandre Guilmant
(1837 - 1911)
Arr. Bob Burnham

San Gabriel (2015)

David Wilborn
(b. 1961)

Tower Music (1977)

Vaclav Nelhybel
(1919 - 1996)

Song for Japan (2011)

Steven Verhelst
(b. 1981)

Valdres March (1904/2010)

Johann Hanssen
(1874 - 1967)
Arr. David Fetter

PROGRAM NOTES

Personnel

Shane Bosch

Hunter Byberg

Zachary Lunde

Sammy Mauriello

Paul Murray

Jack Smukowski

Jacob Kittle, bass

Bo Salander, bass

University of North Dakota Trombone Ensembles

The UND Trombone Choir was founded by Dr. Joel Pugh in 2010. In addition to their semi-annual on-campus concerts, the ensemble has performed at the North Dakota Music Educator's National Conference, and hosted the residencies of Scott Hartman, Yale University; Dr. Eric Ewazen, Juilliard School of Music and R. Douglas Wright, Principal Trombone, Minnesota Orchestra. The Trombone Choir has commissioned numerous renowned composers to write pieces for them, including Kenyon Wilson: *Dragon Curve* (2017); Eric Ewazen: *Dakota Spring* (2018); Thomas Zuger: *Sine Timore (Without Fear)* (2019)

The UND Trombone Octet was selected to perform a featured recital, July 2022, at the International Trombone Festival at the University of Central Arkansas, premiering Christopher Gable's *Alarum Within*.

The UND Trombone Quartet has conducted residencies at two universities in Shanghai, China in 2018 and was featured in Brandon University's Low Brass Day, 2018. Earlier this year, they performed at the Anthony Plog Residency, on his Chamber Recital, performing his Trombone Quartet No. 1: *Densities*.
