

Ross Brownlee

Biography

Ross Brownlee is very fortunate to make music! Since a very young age, he has had the privilege of singing in choirs, playing piano and finally learning his major instruments, the modern and Renaissance trombones.

Ross studied at the *University of Manitoba* in Winnipeg, moved to Chicago to attend *Northern Illinois University*, then finished his studies at *McGill University* in Montréal, Quebec. There, he performed with the McGill Cornett and Sackbut ensemble, Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, and the FACE Symphony Orchestra. He also taught in Montréal public and private high schools for nine years. This is where his passion and love of teaching was seeded and took hold.

He currently directs the band program at *Westgate Mennonite Collegiate* in Winnipeg, MB, leading the students in grades 6-12 through their instrumental studies. Under his direction, the bands have found significant success and are very busy, regularly performing over 20 times a year in church services, concerts, tours, festivals and as guest musicians in the Winnipeg area. We have travelled West to the Gulf Islands in British Columbia, through the prairies, down to Chicago, Washington, New York and through Southern Ontario, Ottawa and Montreal, regularly performing with and making connections with local schools and church communities.

Ross has had the great joy of working on faculty at the *Amherst Early Music Festival* in New England, directing the Winnipeg Chamber Choir *Camerata Nova* for 8 years, and now directing the Winnipeg Youth Wind Ensemble and teaching trombone at *Canadian Mennonite University*. He is an active clinician, adjudicator, singer and trombone performer in Manitoba, and enjoys taking summer conducting workshops. He is an avid cyclist and hiker and is very excited to be getting married to his partner Heidi this year!