James D. Thornton is a former euphonium soloist with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in Washington, D.C. He received his Bachelor's degree in music and philosophy from the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND and his Master of Music degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He has appeared as soloist, conductor and clinician throughout the United Sates, Canada and Europe and his original compositions have been performed throughout the world. James currently resides in Dickinson, North Dakota where he writes music.