

Dr. Brian Hanegan

Dr. Hanegan directs the Northlanders Jazz Ensemble, and teaches jazz combos, jazz improvisation, woodwind methods, studio saxophone, and the history of Jazz, Blues, and Rock. In addition, he coordinates the annual Jazz on the Upper Great Plains Festival.

In 2017, Hanegan completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in saxophone performance at North Dakota State University. At NDSU, he studied with Dr. Matthew Patnode and assisted in teaching the Gold Star Marching Band, Jazz Lab Band, jazz improvisation, saxophone quartets, and the saxophone studio. In addition, Hanegan graduated from the University of South Dakota, where he studied with Dr. Christopher Kocher and earned a Master of Music degree (with specialization) in saxophone performance and assisted in teaching jazz improvisation, Jazz Lab Band, and the saxophone studio. Hanegan also graduated from Northern State University with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, where he studied with Frederic Hemke. During his time at NSU, he was a regional finalist in the MTNA Young Artist Competition (2007-08), NSU Concerto Competition winner (2008), and received an Award of Musical Distinction for outstanding musical achievement and contribution (2008).

He began his professional career as the saxophonist for a summer revue show at Valleyfair Amusement Park in Minneapolis (2006-08). Prior to beginning his graduate studies, Hanegan worked for Carnival Cruise Lines as a multiple-woodwind artist in a seven-piece show orchestra. With Carnival, Hanegan performed nightly alongside musicians from all over the world and served as musical director of the Carnival Elation in 2012. Hanegan taught saxophone and clarinet in 2013, as an artist faculty member at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. He has performed with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra and is actively performing across the Midwest with his band Goodroad and several other jazz projects.