

Dr. Erik Anderson Bio

As a cellist, bassist, conductor and teacher, Erik Anderson's charismatic personality and thoughtful approach to music engages audiences of all ages and musical tastes. Whether in pre-concert lectures for the Minot Symphony Orchestra, presentations in public school classrooms, or on stages from the Great Plains to Europe, he communicates not only an infectious curiosity and deep respect for the music he performs—from AC/DC to Zeppelin, Baroque to Contemporary—but also a passion for education and exploration.

A native of Washington State, he began his cello studies at the age of three, earned his BM and MM from the University of Idaho, and completed his DMA at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. His principal teachers have been Wayne C. Smith, William Wharton, and Yehuda Hanani. In 2003, after seven years as a free-lance cellist, assistant conductor, and business owner in Cincinnati, OH, he joined the faculty at Minot State University (Minot, ND) where he currently resides with his wife and four sons as a Full Professor of Music and Chair of the Division. He plays on a modern Italian instrument, made by Riccardo Bergonzi in Cremona in 2006. Apart from music, Dr. Anderson loves to cook, golf, cross-country ski, play games with the family, and chase any type of ball as though his life depended on it.

Anderson is particularly active with the music of JS Bach, highlighted by the Unaccompanied Suites BWV 1007-12, central to his graduate study with renowned performer and pedagogue Yehuda Hanani. Over the past few years he was featured as a performer, clinician, or lecturer on the music of Bach in San Francisco and Chico, CA, Grand Forks, ND, Las Vegas, NV, Sulzbach-Rosenberg, Germany, Drake University in Iowa, and three separate years as a guest of the Bach Ensemble of St. Thomas in Cincinnati, OH. *OrdinaryExtraOrdinary* is an evolving series of lectures, exploring Bach's life and music as a bridge connecting disparate worlds, using Douglas Hofstadter's *Gödel, Escher Bach* as a point of departure. Characterized by spontaneity as a player and speaker, his favorite performing situation involves programs of music where both topic and musical selections evolve in conversation with the audience, seated just a few feet away.

Chamber music is also central to his performing and teaching activity. Dr. Anderson is a founding member of the piano trio *Luminus*, along with his wife, pianist Dianna Anderson, and violinist Jon Rumney. Over the past fifteen years, they have performed hundreds of regional programs exploring both traditional and modern repertoire, including several world premieres. Most recently, *Luminus* premiered *Evolution 3*, written for them by Pittsburgh composer Sean Neukom. Exploration of new repertoire continues a passion Dr. Anderson developed while at the Cincinnati Conservatory, where he collaborated with Steve Reich, George Crumb, Milton Babbitt, Augusta Read Thomas, and others on their own chamber music.

Dr. Anderson regularly performs cello-piano duo repertoire with Dianna, unaccompanied literature from Bach to Kodaly to contemporary, and has locally been featured as a concerto soloist with the symphonies of Minot, Grand Forks, and Bismarck.

Anderson conducts and performs guitar solos on the electric cello for *Community Rocks!*, an annual symphonic rock event he co-founded with Andy Bertsch in 2015 that has raised more than \$300,000 for organizations in Minot, ND.

Apart from music, Dr. Anderson loves to cook, golf, run, play games with the family, and chase any type of ball as though his life depended on it.