

As a cellist, bassist, conductor and teacher, Erik Anderson's charismatic personality and thoughtful approach to music appeals to audiences of all ages and musical tastes. Whether in pre-concert lectures for the Minot Symphony Orchestra, Jazz combo presentations in school classrooms, or on stages from the Great Plains to Europe, he communicates not only a deep love and respect for the music he performs, but also a passion for education and exploration. 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.

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 performing partner, pianist Dianna Anderson.

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 decade he has been featured as a performer, clinician, or lecturer on the music of Bach nationally and internationally, including five separate years as a guest of the Bach Ensemble of St. Thomas in Cincinnati, OH. The recent acquisition of Baroque instruments by the string program at Minot State has inspired exploration of period style, including performances on the 6-string gamba and 5-string cello.

Digital opportunities and rock'n'roll are an equal focus. In September 2022, he premiered *Concerto Nova* with the Minot Symphony, a work for solo 5-string electric cello and orchestra that features blues, hip-hop, Latin, and metal styles. Along with the composer, Erik Mychal Anderson, he is partnering with public school orchestra programs in ND to adapt the concerto for performance at the elementary, middle, and high schools levels, giving students hands-on experience with pedals, electric instruments, and popular styles. In August 2022, the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Community Rocks concert featured three sets of standard rock tunes arranged for orchestra, with Anderson conducting and performing many of the guitar solos on cello. This music philanthropy, co-founded by Dr. Anderson, has raised nearly \$350,000 since 2015 to benefit the Minot community.

An active chamber musician, Dr. Anderson is a founding member of the piano trio *Luminus*, along with 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. 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. The trio hosts Dakota Chamber Music each June, catering to chamber musicians of all ages.

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.

When not involved with music, Dr. Anderson loves to cook, golf, run, hike, play games with the family, and chase any type of ball as though his life depended on it.