

Dr. Eric Richards – Trombone - Assistant Professor of Composition/Jazz Studies – University of Nebraska Lincoln

Dr. Eric Richards is the Assistant Professor of Composition and Jazz Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music, situated in the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dr. Richards is a composer/arranger, conductor, trombonist, and educator active in a wide range of musical media and styles. He has written compositions, arrangements, and orchestrations for a diverse array of groups and situations, to include: renowned wind ensembles, big bands, and symphony orchestras, various chamber media, commercial recording projects, and marching bands. His 1st String Quartet was hailed by the Washington Post as "...a work of propulsive genius." In March 2006, Dr. Richards was chosen from a select group of composers to present an original work for jazz orchestra at the 1st International Jazz Composition Symposium at the University of South Florida. His music is imbued with a love of American art music, jazz, and vernacular styles while also strongly influenced by the musical languages of Brazil, Cuba, and Africa.

For two decades, Eric served as Composer/Arranger with the United States Army Field Band, the Army's premiere touring ensemble based near Washington DC. Prior to joining the faculty at UNL, he served as Music Department Coordinator, Director of Instrumental Music, and Assistant Professor of Music Theory/Technology at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska. Eric holds a Doctor of Musical Arts (Composition) degree from the University of Maryland at College Park where he studied with Mark Wilson and Robert Gibson. He received both a Master of Music (Composition) and a Bachelor of Science (Music Education) degree from Duquesne University where he studied with John Wilson and Joseph Wilcox Jenkins.

A regularly commissioned composer and arranger, Eric's works have been performed and recorded worldwide by professional and academic ensembles in major concert venues. Ensembles include the following: US Army Field Band and Jazz Ambassadors, USAF Band and Airmen Of Note, US Marine Band (The President's Own), National Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops Orchestra, Dallas Wind Symphony, University of North Texas Wind Ensemble, Millikin University Wind Ensemble, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Jazz Ensemble I, University of Northern Colorado Jazz Lab Band I, UNC Greeley Jazz Festival All Star Big Band, Lincoln Southeast Jazz Ensemble I (Lincoln, Neb.), Pennsylvania IAJE High School All-State Jazz Ensemble, Hall High School Concert Jazz Band (West Hartford, Conn.), Government Of Thailand, and the Sunrise String Quartet. Artists such as Toots Thielemans, Joe Lovano, John Fedchock, and Teri Lyne Carrington have performed his music in concert. Performance venues have included Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Berlin Philharmonie and the Montreux, North Sea, Vienne, Nice and Monterey Jazz Festivals.