

Parker Nelson is redefining the limits of what the horn can do with innovative programs that include his own original arrangements, transcriptions, techniques, commissions, and new context for standard practices and repertoire. As a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral musician, and educator, Parker actively works with communities both home and abroad to continually expand the cultural, educational, and artistic reach of the 21st century horn player.

Parker is a dynamic soloist and consistently creates new concert and recital programs to highlight his wealth of original arrangements for horn that include unaccompanied horn, horn and piano, and horn with looping pedal. With works ranging from Bach and Dvořák, to Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder, no genre of music is off limits. Parker also actively expands the repertoire for the horn by commissioning established and up-and-coming composers such as Thomas Weaver, Karalyn Schubring, and Aaron Houston. By no means shy of the traditional, Parker has also been a featured soloist in series programs at universities and with orchestras around the country.

As a chamber musician, Parker continues his love of breaking musical boundaries with Chicago's Fifth House Ensemble, a concert organization that presents innovative programs including collaborations with pop musicians from other cultures (*Sonic Meditations* and *Nedudim*), educational partnerships with the incarcerated and at-risk youth (*Broken Text*), and the world's first audience-interactive video game concert in which musicians react to the audience's live gameplay for an immersive sonic experience as different as each potential audience (*Journey LIVE*).

Parker also continues to play frequently with orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra, and the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, among many others. Awarded a fellowship to the Tanglewood Music Festival in 2014, Parker has also studied with members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and performed under such prolific conductors as Andris Nelsons, Charles Dutoit, Leonard Slatkin, Stephane Denève, Marcelo Lehninger, and Stephan Asbury.

Parker is an active educator, currently serving as the High Brass Instructor for the Ravinia Festival's El Sistema program, Horn Instructor at numerous high schools in the Chicagoland area and previously serving as the Educational Programming Coordinator for Fifth House Ensemble. You can find Parker giving lectures and performances at Northwestern University, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, University of Texas - Austin, and Michigan State University, amongst others. He particularly enjoys engaging underserved communities by organizing, creating, and teaching programs for youth and women experiencing homelessness and youth housed at temporary detention facilities. Parker is also a faculty member at the Fresh Inc Festival, maintains a private studio, and is always interested in new opportunities to teach at any level.

Parker received a Master of Music degree with distinction in Horn Performance from DePaul University, and received a Bachelor of Music degree from Boston University. Parker's primary instructors have been soloist and chamber musician, Eric Ruske, James Smelser, Second Horn of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and, Dale Clevenger, former Principal Horn of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.