

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. 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, educational partnerships with the incarcerated and at-risk youth, and the world's first audience-interactive video game concert.

Serving both as Fifth House Ensemble's horn player and Educational Programming Coordinator, Parker is an active educator, giving lectures and performances at educational institutions of all types across the country. 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 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.

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 Eric Ruske, James Smelser, and Dale Clevenger.