

Parker Nelson is a leader in reinventing the capacities of classical music on the stage, in the classroom, and beyond. 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 programs to highlight his wealth of original arrangements and commissioned works. 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 as a founding member of Chicago's Black Moon Trio, a concert organization that presents innovative programs including collaborations with authors, museums, and environmental agencies, in addition to conventional performing arts venues. Parker was also an integral member of the now retired chamber music group, Fifth House Ensemble where he designed and performed in educational partnerships with the incarcerated and underserved youth and audience-interactive video game concerts.

Parker is an active educator and administrator, currently serving as Director of Public Programs and Music at Brushwood Center, and horn instructor at Deerfield High School, Highland Park High School, New Trier Township High School. Parker also has experience as a faculty member at the Fresh Inc Festival and is always interested in new opportunities to teach at any level.

Parker also continues to play frequently with orchestras and large ensembles such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra, and Millar Brass Ensemble, among 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.