

Joseph Bardsley: My Favourite Things

I've been playing the horn for twelve years – since the sixth grade. I couldn't read music at all, hated how big the horn was and thought it was the most uncool instrument ever. I played through junior high, and Jody Ossen (currently also in Silver Band, actually) was my lifesaver – she used to write in all of the fingerings and notes for me! Eventually, I got to high school, and band really took off for me – it was, and still is, my favorite thing to do, and I got the chance to do some amazing things – take part in the World Association of Marching Showbands Competition in 2000, travel to Japan, take part in the Bands of America Leadership Symposium in Normal, IL, travel all over the USA and create some really memorable moments. From there, taking part in the Stampede Showband and being in the Pasadena Rose Bowl Parade (among other things) really capped off my high school band experiences!

After moving on, I was really let down – for a few months I felt like I had nowhere else to go musically. Then I discovered Westwinds through a friend in summer 2003, and I haven't looked back since! The people have been incredibly welcoming, the music has been great, and the atmosphere has been consistently awesome. Now, in my current role as band manager for the Wind Orchestra, and member of the Silver Band, I feel like I've totally found my place musically for the moment! In addition to Westwinds, I also play in the University of Calgary symphonic band and take lessons professionally – but Westwinds is my favorite part of every week, and I look forward to being involved for many years to come.