

# MICHAEL PARKINSON

## Performer, Conductor, Music Educator, and Clinician



Michael Parkinson is an Educational Specialist for Bach trumpets (Conn-Selmer), based in metropolitan Kansas City. He is the director of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble, an ecumenical group-in-residence at Rolling Hills Church in Overland Park, KS and a performer/educator for the Kansas Touring Arts Program.

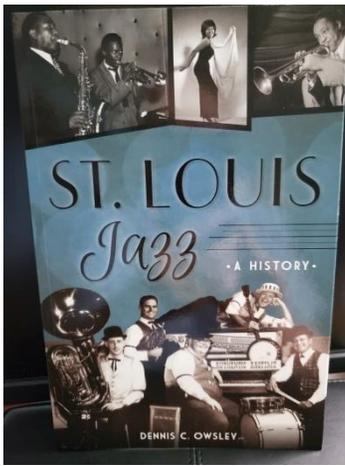
Mike has served as a performer, conductor, clinician or adjudicator at events such as MUSICFEST USA and the Greater Southwest Music Festival, and at schools and festivals across the United States, Poland and China. He has directed ensembles for conferences of the College Band Directors National Association, the International Association for Jazz Education, the Electronic Music Plus Festival, the National Association for Music Education, and the Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, and South Carolina Music Educators Association conferences. He is the author of "BASIE, BEBOP, BALLADS & BLUES" jazz ensemble repertoire guide and "BEYOND THE BLUES," a guide to jazz score-part editing and rehearsal techniques. He presents clinics and workshops on improvisation, entrepreneurship, personal musicianship, brass technique/pedagogy, and jazz ensemble/combo performance practice.

Mike most recently served as Director of the School of Music at Middle Tennessee State University. He performed with the MTSU Jazztet on tours of China in 2017 and 2018 and is a Guest Professor of Performing Arts at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music. He previously served as music administrator for the Ohio University School of Music and Webster University Department Chair. He performed with Jazz Spoken Here, Sweet Basil, the Paul DeMarinis Quartet, and the Tennessee Jazz Collective.. His teaching specialties include jazz studies, contemporary music, and entrepreneurship-music industry. He held appointments at Case Western Reserve University, Furman University, and served as Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Mike has worked extensively in development/alumni relations, international programs, marketing and recruiting, facilities improvements, curricular design and assessment, student wellness, and entrepreneurship.

Mike has performed with American artists including Bob Brookmeyer, Bill Dobbins, Gary Foster, Bobby Watson, Gary Wittner, and Phil Woods, and Polish artists such as Marek Balata, Joachim Mencil, Janusz Muniak, Jacek Niedziela, Wlodek Pawlik, and Dominik Wania. His experience includes shows such as George Burns, Glen Campbell, Rosemary Clooney, the Four Aces, and the Manhattan Transfer. He has recorded with harpist Michelle Himmell, the Spirit of Kansas City Orchestra, the St. Thomas Quartet, Jazz Spoken Here, Kirby Shaw, the Webster jazz faculty, and MTSU jazz faculty. An avid supporter of new music, Mike founded the IMPROF Ensemble at MTSU and the Webster New Music Ensemble, and led student ensembles from Ohio University and UMKC in performances at conferences of the Society of Composers. He has worked with composers including Robert Cooper, Halim El Dabh, Donald Erb, Gay Holmes Spears, James Mobberley, Paul West Osterfield, Mark Phillips, and Kim Portnoy.

A native of Cleveland, Tennessee, Mike received the DMA in Conducting from the University of Cincinnati, the MM in Trumpet from Kent State University, and the BM in Music Education from the University of North Texas. He studied trumpet with Frank Brown, John Haynie, Harry Herforth, David Hines, and Marie Speziale; and conducting with Kelly Hale, Donald Hunsberger, David Kuehn, Terry Milligan, and Leopold Sipe. His primary influences are Bob Brookmeyer, Miles Davis, Charles Mingus, Bill Scarlett, Kenny Werner, and Kenny Wheeler.

Mike served as Artistic Director of the International Summer Jazz Academy (ISJA) in Poland for ten years, bringing American, Austrian and Polish artists together to work with students from across Europe and the United States. He returned to Krakow, Poland for the 25<sup>th</sup> ISJA in 2021. In recognition of his service to education, he was named Amicus Poloniae by the Republic of Poland and received the Jess Cole Award from the Missouri Jazz Educators Association.



Mike is a member of the Jazz Education Network, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda, the American Federation of Musicians, International Relations Council, Missouri Jazz Educators Association, Rotary International, and the United Methodist Church. He is a Sigma Alpha Iota *Friend of the Arts* and an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. His interests include Formula 1 racing, reading, and Polish studies. He is married to Charlene Hanson, a North Dakota native, who served as director of the Tennessee Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus and as director of music at churches in Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, North Dakota and Tennessee. The Parkinson family resides in Overland Park, Kansas.

## PROFESSIONAL ENDORSEMENTS

### **Jamey Aebersold, American Jazz Master and renowned jazz educator**

“Mike Parkinson and I go way back. Mike has been a true jazzier and educator of our American music for many years. He’s spent his life immersed in it. He knows the SOUND and the players and loves showing others how to actually play jazz.”

### **Paul DeMarinis, Director of Jazz Studies, Webster University**

“Mike Parkinson is many things—a hard bop messenger, an evolving artist of vast experience and insatiable curiosity, an educator of great substance and integrity, a global citizen, and a seasoned traveler who has had the wisdom to follow his heart where it might lead him. His long, vital career is a testament to the transformative power of the arts in a life well-lived.”

### **Gary Foster, Los Angeles jazz and studio woodwind artist.**

“In Spring 1984 the North American Saxophone Alliance had its conference at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. As a guest performer with the UMKC wind ensemble and jazz ensemble, I first encountered Mike Parkinson, who conducted both groups! From 1984-1997, on four yearly visits to UMKC, working with Mike was the most satisfying teaching experience of my life. Mike Parkinson’s accomplishments as an educator, trumpet player and colleague are remarkable in my experience.”

### **John Hahn, Director of Bands, Chaminade College Preparatory School, St. Louis**

“Mike Parkinson has a unique and amazing ability to combine musicianship, knowledge, communication and passion for people. Every conversation, lesson, clinic or rehearsal reflects Mike’s complete dedication to his craft. He is a master of both the art *and* science of teaching and playing music.”

### **Dr. Charles Menghini, President Emeritus, VanderCook College of Music,**

“Mike Parkinson is one of those rare teachers who will elevate your group to the next level in minutes. His ability to listen, analyze, diagnose and prescribe is amazing. Your students will love working with him and you will too!”

### **Jerry Tolson, Chair, Academic & Professional Studies, U. of Louisville School of Music**

“Mike Parkinson is a consummate performer and improviser with innovative ideas and intriguing creativity, and he is a consummate teacher who works well with students of all ages and ability levels. In addition, he has long advocated the importance of developing outstanding musical and entrepreneurial skills for success.”

### **Gary Wittner, internationally known jazz guitarist, University of Southern Maine.**

“Mike Parkinson is an outstanding professional musician and music educator. As a trumpeter, his deep knowledge of the jazz tradition is clearly evident in his playing. Always humble and selfless, for Mike the music is always the #1 priority. As an educator, he is disciplined and caring - always striving to bring the best to, and get the best from, his students.”

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