

Will Scharen, Trombone

The first week of April is International Trombone Week! And with the first having been National Trombone Player's Day, we wanted to shine a light on our brilliant trombonists! Today's spotlight: Will!



Could you tell me a little bit about yourself?

I grew up in Montana, have 3 degrees in trombone performance, and recently started a small business building bicycle frames here in Ashland.

What brought or inspired you to pursue trombone? If you'd like to share one of your favorite pieces of music as well, I'd like to know!

The first time I picked up the trombone in fifth grade I could make a decent sound and after that first glissando there was no looking back. Mahler's third symphony is my favorite piece, hands down. It's full of wild swings of emotion, vivid textures and colors - and happens to contain the biggest trombone solo in the orchestral repertoire.

What do you enjoy most about being with the Rogue Valley Symphony?

The strong feeling of collegiality is the best thing about playing with RVS. The musicians respect one another and bring their individual best with the ultimate goal of enhancing the whole. It's a real team effort and I love that.

What do you do when you're not playing music i.e. what are your hobbies or interests?

Cycling is my main hobby, primarily mountain biking. I also like hiking and skiing, so I guess you could say being outside is my hobby. I also enjoy cooking.

Finally, one unusual fact, story, or tidbit about you or your instrument?

The trombone has the rare distinction of being essentially unchanged since well before the symphony orchestra even existed. Examples of 15th-century trombones in museums are remarkably similar to the instruments played today. I could pick up one of those horns and play it with very little adjustment necessary from how I play my own trombone. I play a replica of an 18th-century German instrument in a small group that plays Renaissance music.

