

Musician SPOTLIGHT

James Rester



Instrument/Position:

Third Horn

How long in the DSO?

10 years (since 2008)

Why?

I cannot select a favorite piece or choose a favorite amongst these composers, but what they have in common is an extreme mastery of orchestration and highly unique orchestral “voices” which I cherish.

Music Education:

I attended the University of Alabama but won a position with the Army Field Band before completing a degree. I served honorably for several years before leaving the military to pursue an orchestral career.

Other Ensembles You Perform With:

I am Principal Horn in Annapolis Symphony Orchestra and Reading Symphony Orchestra. I frequently perform with Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and in many regional orchestras.

Other Professional Activities?

I work as a product development consultant and machinist for Hauser Mouthpiece Works making brass and stainless steel mouthpieces for horn, trombone, and tuba.

Hobbies, Activities?

I like hiking, camping, and legend tripping. I've traveled to Fouke, Arkansas in search of the Fouke Monster and wandered the Pine Barrens looking for the Jersey Devil. I have plans to search the Ouachitas in Oklahoma for the elusive wood ape.

Favorite Composer/Piece?

I love the music of Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, and Rachmaninoff.

What teacher/educator/event influenced you the most, and why?

Without the guidance of David Pandolfi, Principal Horn of the Alabama Symphony, I wouldn't be an employed musician. He gave me the structure and direction to build a career. Without the friendly guidance of Karen Schubert, Ken Bell, Jeff Lang, and Aleks Ozolins, I'm sure I couldn't have sustained my career. These wonderful musicians uplift me through their professional guidance and consistently inspire me with their performances.

Ideal Vacation/Getaway?

Traveling the country in my GT Mustang or disappearing into the woods for weeks at a time.

Other Interesting Item(s) About You:

I don't like wooden spoons, politics, or pickles. I DO like quiet conversations, sweet wines, and serendipity.

Cheesesteak Topping?

- American
- Provolone
- Whiz
- Don't do cheesesteaks!

