

About your host of the 2018 Mid-South Horn Workshop: Brent Shires



Dr. Brent Shires is Associate Professor of Horn at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA, where he teaches horn lessons, serves as Brass Chamber Music Coordinator, directs the UCA Horn Ensemble, and teaches courses in the pedagogy and music theory areas. Brent holds several performing positions including third horn with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and Texarkana Symphony Orchestra; principal horn with the Conway Symphony Orchestra; and is the founding hornist of Pinnacle Brass, the resident quintet at UCA. Brent is frequently called for national touring Broadway musicals and shows appearing in Little Rock. In addition, Brent is Adjunct Horn Instructor at Hendrix College, and teaches at Dixie Band Camp and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan each summer.

The UCA Horn Studio is comprised of some of the best students in the Mid-South region of the U.S., with an exceptional rate of job placement and graduate study acceptance (100% in music education). Under Dr. Shires' baton, the UCA Horn Ensemble has traveled as far as Colorado, Wisconsin, Georgia, and even Spain to give performances and to perform at horn workshops.

Previously he has served on the faculties of Silver Lake College; Lakeland College; Southern Illinois University – Carbondale; Millikin University; and Illinois public schools.

Brent has performed extensively throughout the United States. He has previously held principal positions with the Pine Bluff Symphony, Green Bay Symphony, Manitowoc Symphony, Champaign-Urbana Symphony, Danville Symphony, and Sinfonia da Camera. He has also performed with the Memphis Symphony, Fort Smith Symphony and Chorale, Northwest Arkansas Symphony, Evansville Philharmonic, Peoria Symphony, Elgin Symphony, Rockford Symphony, Illinois Symphony, Illinois Philharmonic, Madison Symphony, and many other organizations. Dr. Shires has also appeared at many horn events, playing and presenting regularly at the Mid-South, Southeast, and Southwest regional workshops. He currently performs on the Lukas Geyer model horn and the Conn 8D.

Internationally Brent has played recitals and concerts throughout Europe and Asia. He has played as Principal Horn for the Haydn Festival Orchestra in Eisenstadt, Austria; sung in the choir with City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra on tour under Simon Rattle; played Guest Principal Horn with the Fujian Symphony in Fuzhou, China; and has appeared multiple times as Guest Principal Horn or as soloist with the East China Normal University Symphony Orchestra in Shanghai. In May 2017 he appeared as the featured horn artist at the 2nd International Albanian Brass Festival, and gave a mini-residency at the University of Arts in Pristina, Kosovo. He has been invited for a repeat residency as Visiting International Professor at University of Taipei, Taiwan in May 2018 for several weeks, and also at Taoyuan Municipal WuLing Senior High School.

Brent won in university concerto competitions at Northern Illinois University and the University of Illinois, performing as soloist with their orchestras. He was a cash prize finalist in the National Young Artist Competition of Midland, Texas. Since then, Brent has invested his time and effort as a competition adjudicator. He presently serves on the Board of Advisors for the International Horn Competition of America, judging in the University Division. Dr. Shires strongly supports the MTNA competitions, and has hosted the Arkansas level and judged in the National Finals. Brent also serves as a judge for the ENKOR online solo competition.

Brent actively commissions new musical works, recently collaborating with internationally-known euphonium performer Dr. Gail Robertson in commissioning a trio with piano by composer Barbara York, entitled *Memories of Things Both Lost and Found*. The piece was premiered at the 2015 International Horn Symposium in Los Angeles, California. Brent also joined the commission of *Virginia Songs* to commemorate the life of Dr. Virginia Thompson at the 2016 IHS Symposium at Ithaca College. He has now commissioned Taiwanese composer Chia-ling Pan to write a new work for two horns and piano, based on Taiwanese musical themes.

Dr. Shires earned his bachelor's degree in music education at State University of New York - Potsdam, his MM in Horn Performance and Pedagogy at Northern Illinois University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Illinois, with a research area focusing on original works for solo horn and wind band. He also spent one semester studying at the Birmingham Conservatoire in England. His horn teachers include W. Peter Kurau, Roy Schaberg, Norman Schweikert, Timothy Jones, John Fairfield, and Kazimierz Machala. Dr. Shires serves the International Horn Society as the worldwide Regional Workshop Coordinator and Arkansas Area Representative. He is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music in the Music Teachers National Association.