

David Sporny

Biography

David Sporny was on the faculty at UMass from 1982-2010, leading the Trombone Studio, directing the Chapel Jazz Ensemble and Trombone Choir, and performing frequently in recital and with the Faculty Brass Quintet. After his retirement, he has returned often as guest conductor.

Prior to his UMass appointment, he was Low Brass Instructor at the Interlochen Arts Academy and National Music Camp in Michigan for sixteen years, where he founded the Jazz Studies program. Sporny has conducted District and All-State ensembles in fifteen states; he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Association for Jazz Education in 2004.

As a performer, Mr. Sporny is equally comfortable in both the classical and jazz traditions, and has collaborated with such musicians as Yo-Yo Ma, Nancy Wilson, Maureen McGovern, Aretha Franklin, Andy Williams, Dave Brubeck, Marian McPartland, Max Roach, Billy Taylor, and many others. He has appeared in concert halls throughout the world, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Tanglewood, and Ravinia, and has performed with the Chicago Little Symphony, Opera North, the Springfield and Hartford Orchestras, as well as the Tonight Show Orchestra and Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey Orchestras. Sporny is the founder and musical director of the Amherst Jazz Orchestra and has recorded twelve albums and nineteen CDs for RCA, Brownstone, Seabreeze, Jazz Masters, and Original Cast Recordings. He is a voting member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

From

[*ITA Honors Trombonist David Sporny with 2021 Neill Humfeld Award : Department of Music and Dance : UMass Amherst*](#)