

James Olcott

James Olcott is a native of Berkeley, California. He earned his undergraduate music degree from San Francisco State University and his masters in trumpet performance from the Manhattan School of Music in New York where his trumpet teachers included William Vacchiano and Mel Broiles.

He has been on the music faculty of Miami University (Ohio) since 1978, before which he taught at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and at Fort Hays State University (Kansas). He is currently principal trumpet of the Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra and the Middletown (Ohio) Symphony Orchestra,

Mr. Olcott is an active free-lancer performing in both jazz and classical idioms throughout the Cincinnati-Dayton area in large and small group settings. In addition, he is the founder and director of the Cincinnati Herald Trumpet Ensemble.

Also active as a composer and arranger, Olcott has been interested in trumpet ensemble literature for many years, and has written many successful compositions and arrangements. He has written for the Miami University Trumpet Ensemble. His works are published by Crown Music Press of Chicago, Tromba Publications of Denver, and by his own publishing firm, Triplo Press, which he began in 1991.

He is also very active in the International Trumpet Guild, in which he has served many capacities, including the organization's president, vice-president, and secretary, and is currently serving on the Editorial Committee of the International Trumpet Guild Journal, acting as coordinator for the Guild's annual CD projects, and is the chair of the Ellsworth/Smith International Solo Trumpet Competition.

He has been a member of the faculty of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan since 1979 and has taught and performed as principal trumpet, and conducted student and faculty jazz ensembles. He has been involved on and off for the last 20 years as conductor of the Blue Lake International Jazz Ensemble for its three-year European tours to Belgium, Austria, Germany, France, Denmark, and the Netherlands, and served as a member of the Blue Lake in Bavaria faculty as director of its international jazz ensemble.

At Miami University he serves as chair of the Jazz Ensemble Program, conducts the school's jazz trumpet ensembles, teaches trumpet and is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Music Department internet website. He is also the founder of Miami's annual Southwestern High School Jazz Festival.

From:
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