

CATHY LEACH

Biography

Cathy Leach, recently retired, was the Professor of Trumpet at the University of Tennessee from 1981 to 2020. She taught applied trumpet, directed the UT Trumpet Ensemble, coached brass quintets, and served the School of Music as Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Director of Graduate Studies. Dr. Leach played principal trumpet with the Knoxville Symphony and Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestras from 1981-2013 and was a member of the UT Faculty Brass Quintet, the New Mexico Brass Quintet, the Stiletto Brass Quintet, the Galliard Brass Ensemble, and Monarch Brass. She appears on recordings on the Musical Heritage and Opus One labels.

A popular soloist and clinician, Ms. Leach has been featured with the Knoxville Symphony and Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestras, the Oak Ridge Symphony, the Bremerton Symphony, and the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic. She served as President of the International Trumpet Guild, having served 12 years on the Board of Directors, two years as Vice President, two years as President, and two years as Past President. She currently serves the Joy of Music School in Knoxville as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

As Director of the UT Trumpet Ensemble, Dr. Leach has conducted the group at International Trumpet Guild Conferences at the University of Maryland (1990), in Rotterdam (1992), at the University of Richmond (1999), at Rowan State University (2006), Columbus State University in Columbus, GA (2012), Columbus, OH (2015), and Hershey, PA (2016) often featuring pieces she has commissioned. Dr. Leach has been awarded a Chancellor Citation for Excellence in Teaching, a School of Music Leadership Award, a 2007 James R. and Nell W. Cunningham Outstanding Teaching Award, and a Sandra G. Powell Professorship 2014-2016. Her teachers include Clifford Lillya, Walter Chesnut, Jeffrey Piper, and Vincent Cichowicz. Her students currently perform professionally and teach in universities and public schools across the United States.

When not practicing or teaching Ms. Leach enjoys working out, reading, writing, horseback riding, yoga, and spending time with her dog Benny, horse Bravo, and her life partner Doc Severinsen. She is currently working for TrumCor Mutes as a bookkeeper, researching several writing projects, revving up her violin and piano skills, teaching via Zoom, and trying to stay ahead of her 1840s-built farmhouse.

