

Jeffrey McCray

BASSOON

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Biographical Sketch

Jeffrey McCray was appointed as Assistant Professor of Bassoon at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2007 after serving one year as an interim lecturer. Dr. McCray serves as the principal bassoonist of the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, he is the bassoonist with the Moran Woodwind Quintet, and he is a member of the bassoon section of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic (formerly the Colorado Springs Symphony Orchestra), a position he has held since 2000.

Dr. McCray earned the Doctorate in Musical Arts from Michigan State University in 2007, where he was a bassoon student of Michael Kroth. He holds a bachelor's degree in bassoon performance and a master's degree in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University, where he studied with Robert Barris and Victor Yampolsky. Additionally, he studied with Bernard Garfield, former principal bassoon of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and earned a master's degree in bassoon performance from Temple University. He has served on the faculties of Baylor University, Western Michigan University, Albion College, and the University of Michigan-Flint; has held positions with the symphony orchestras of Battle Creek (MI), Lansing (MI), Waco (TX), Allentown (PA), and Haddonfield (NJ); and has performed extensively with the Grand Rapids (MI) Symphony, Delaware Symphony, Opera Delaware, and the Pennsylvania Ballet.

An advocate of contemporary music, Dr. McCray has appeared both as bassoonist and conductor in concerts of contemporary music throughout the United States. He received praise from numerous critics for his 2001 recording of M. William Karlins' Four Inventions and a Fugue for bassoon, piano, and female voice. Recent performances of note include Dan Welcher's *Concerto da Camera* for bassoon and chamber orchestra with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, numerous performances at the annual conferences of the International Double Reed Society, and other concerto performances with the UNL Symphony Orchestra and the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony.

Education

Institutions Attended:

Michigan State University , DMA in bassoon performance GPA: 4.0	2003-2007
Northwestern University , MMus in Orchestral Conducting GPA: 3.88	1999-2001
Temple University , MMus in Bassoon Performance GPA: 3.89	1996-1998
Northwestern University , BMus in Bassoon Performance graduated with academic distinction and performance honors GPA: 3.90	1992-1996

Principal Bassoon Instructors:

Michael Kroth , Michigan State University	2003-2006
Bernard Garfield , Philadelphia Orchestra (retired), Temple University	1996-1998
Robert Barris , Northwestern University	1992-1996

Masterclasses Attended:

Arthur Weisburg , Indiana University	March 2000
Zeev Dormann , principal bassoon, Israel Philharmonic	April 1996
Nancy Goeres , principal bassoon, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra	November 1993

Continuing Education:

“Using Blackboard™ for Music Instruction,” A half day in-service, University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music, August 2006.

“Bach’s St. John Passion and Baroque Performance Practices.” Summer workshop, Westminster Choir College, June 1998.

Colorado College Summer Conservatory and Chamber Music Festival: 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998.

Teaching Experience

College/University Faculty Positions:

- University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, Assistant Professor of Bassoon 2007-present
Teaching responsibilities include applied bassoon to music performance, music education, and non-music majors at undergraduate, masters, and doctoral levels; woodwind methods; freshman-level music theory and ear training; a graduate-level course in symphonic literature; bassoon literature and pedagogy; chamber music; and performing with the Moran Woodwind Quintet. Additional responsibilities include co-hosting the annual UNL Double-Reed Day, a major recruiting event for the double-reed studios; conducting wind, brass, and percussion sectionals for the UNL Symphony Orchestra; conducting woodwind sectionals for the UNL Wind Ensemble and UNL Symphonic Band; serving on the university-wide Academic Standards Committee; and serving on the Faculty Travel Grant Committee for the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts.
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chamber Music Institute** 2008-2010
Faculty Artist; Chamber music coach
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, lecturer in bassoon and music theory 2006-2007
- Albion College**, adjunct instructor in bassoon 2005-2006
- University of Michigan-Flint**, adjunct instructor in bassoon 2004-2005
- Baylor University**, lecturer in bassoon and music theory 2001-2002
Taught courses in applied bassoon (undergraduate and masters levels), woodwind methods, music theory, ear training, and chamber music. Performed with Baylor Woodwind Quintet.
- Western Michigan University**, instructor in bassoon 2000-2001
Served as the sabbatical replacement for the Professor of Bassoon for one year; taught courses in applied bassoon (undergraduate and masters levels), woodwind methods, ear training, and basic conducting. Performed with Western Wind Quintet and Western Winds, a wind ensemble comprised of faculty and students.

Masterclasses taught:

Michigan State University	November 2010
University of Michigan	October 2010
Grand Valley State University	October 2010
St. Olaf College	September 2010
University of Northern Iowa	September 2010
University of Iowa (with Moran Woodwind Quintet)	September 2010
Kansas Wesleyan University	October 2009
Colorado State University	April 2009
University of Arkansas	September 2008
University of Missouri-Columbia	April 2008
University of Kansas (with Moran Woodwind Quintet)	April 2008
Michigan State University	March 2007
Instituto Nacional de Música, San Jose, Costa Rica	May 2002

Clinics taught:

Bocal Majority Bassoon Camp	July 2011
Bassoon Academy of Dallas	July 2011
Nebraska All-State Orchestra	November 2010
Colorado Springs Youth Symphony	October 2010
Omaha Area Youth Orchestra	August 2010
Omaha Area Youth Orchestra	August 2009
Bellevue West High School, Bellevue, NE	January 2009
South Valley Middle School, Liberty, MO	October 2008
South Valley Middle School, Liberty, MO	October 2007
Omaha Area Youth Orchestra, Omaha, NE	August 2007
Parkway South High School, Ballwin, MO	April 2007
Roosevelt High School, Sioux Falls, SD	February 2007
Lewis-Palmer High School, Monument, CO	October 2006
Rampart High School, Colorado Springs, CO	October 2006

Other Teaching:

Michigan State University, graduate teaching assistant	2003-2006
Responsibilities included teaching reed-making to freshman bassoon majors, bassoon methods to music education majors, and applied lessons to bassoon majors when the Professor of Bassoon was unavailable.	
Wilmington Music School (Wilmington, DE), instructor in bassoon	2002-2003
Northwestern University Summer High School Music Institute	2000
Instructor in chamber music and conducting	

Northwestern University, graduate assistant 1999-2000
Served as the assistant conductor for the Contemporary Music Ensemble;
conducted several premieres of student compositions, including two performances
at the 2000 Chicago Contemporary Music Festival at Roosevelt University. Also
served as the assistant conductor for the Brass Choir and as the orchestra manager
for the Chamber Orchestra.

Wilkes University Summer High School Music Camp, Wilkes-Barre, PA 1997
Instructor in bassoon

Temple University, graduate teaching assistant 1996-1998
Taught two semesters of bassoon methods.

Students' Accomplishments:

Katie Brennan (UNL), awarded graduate fellowship at Michigan State University;
principal bassoon, Michigan State University Symphony Orchestra

Reed Hanna (UNL), awarded graduate fellowship at Penn State University

Paul Hegstrom (UNL), awarded Hixson-Lied Presentation of Scholarly and Creative
Activity Grant

Karmen Ingram (Baylor), artist-in-residence at Banff Centre for the Performing Arts

Jason Kramer (Western Michigan), graduate assistantship at DePaul University

Ian Rose (UNL), recipient of Oldman scholarship

Daisy Smith (UNL), awarded Hixson-Lied Presentation of Scholarly and Creative
Activity Grant

Isaac Waswick (private student), principal bassoon, 2010 Nebraska All-State Orchestra

Fernando Zuñiga (Baylor), finalist in 2001 Baylor Concerto Competition

Orchestral Engagements

Positions held:

Lincoln (NE) Symphony Orchestra , principal bassoon	2007-present
Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra , utility bassoon	2003-present
Battle Creek (MI) Symphony Orchestra , principal bassoon	2003-2006
Greater Lansing (MI) Symphony Orchestra , second bassoon	2005-2006
Colorado Springs Symphony Orchestra , utility bassoon	2000-2003
Crested Butte (CO) Music Festival Orchestra , second bassoon	2002
Waco (TX) Symphony Orchestra , acting principal bassoon	2001-2002
Allentown (PA) Symphony Orchestra , third bassoon/contrabassoon	1997-1999
Haddonfield (NJ) Symphony Orchestra , third bassoon/contrabassoon	1998-1999
KLANG , bassoon/contrabassoon	1995-1996

Substitute positions:

Omaha Symphony , third bassoon/contrabassoon	2010-present
Sioux City (IA) Symphony , principal bassoon (long-term sub.)	2007-2009
Lincoln (NE) Symphony Orchestra , principal bassoon (long-term sub.)	2006-2007
New World Symphony	2006-2007
Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra , second bassoon/contrabassoon	2005-2006
Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra , principal bassoon	2005-2006
West Shore (MI) Symphony Orchestra , all positions	2004-2006
Adrian (MI) Symphony Orchestra , all positions	2004-2006
Pennsylvania Ballet , all positions	2002-2003
Delaware Symphony Orchestra , all positions	1998-2003
Opera Delaware , all positions	1997-2003
Windsor (Ontario) Symphony Orchestra , principal bassoon	2001
Harrisburg (PA) Symphony Orchestra , all positions	1997-1999
Lancaster (PA) Symphony Orchestra , 2 nd bassoon	1997-1999
Chicago Sinfonietta , 2 nd bassoon	1995-1996
Civic Orchestra of Chicago , all positions	1993-95; 2000

Chamber Engagements

Recitals with Moran Woodwind Quintet:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln	November 2010
Drake University	September 2010
University of Iowa	September 2010
University of Northern Iowa	September 2010
St. Olaf College	September 2010
National Conference of the College Music Society	September 2010
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	March 2010
Sioux City (IA) Chamber Music Society	February 2010
Colorado College	November 2009
Colorado State University	November 2009
Liberty High School, Colorado Springs CO	November 2009
Palmer Ridge High School, Monument CO	November 2009
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	October 2009
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	April 2009
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	December 2008
National Conference of the College Music Society	September 2008
University of Kansas	April 2008
University of Missouri-Columbia	April 2008
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	April 2008
Washburn University	April 2008
William Jewell College	April 2008
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	December 2007
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale	April 2007
University of Missouri-St. Louis	April 2007
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	April 2007
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	November 2006

Recitals with Baylor Woodwind Quintet:

Instituto Nacional de Música de Costa Rica	May 2002
Baylor University	April 2002
Baylor University	November 2001
Waco Symphony Chamber Music Series	October 2001

Other Chamber Engagements:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln	April 2011
Faculty Recital with William McMullen, oboe; Catherine Herbener, piano	
Masterworks Concert, Masonic Lodge 54 (Lincoln, NE)	November 2010
William Hurlstone: Trio in g minor for clarinet, bassoon, and piano	
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	April 2010
Faculty Recital with Diane Barger, clarinet; Mark Clinton, piano	
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	December 2009
Peter Hope: Four Sketches for oboe, bassoon, and piano	
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chamber Music Institute	June 2009
Pierre-Max Dubois: Petite Suite for flute and bassoon	
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Midwest ClariFest	March 2009
Bill Douglas: Suite Cantando for clarinet, bassoon, and piano	
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	October 2008
Bill Douglas: Suite Cantando for clarinet, bassoon, and piano	
Conference of the International Double-Reed Society	June 2007
Sofia Gubaidulina: Duo-Sonata for two bassoons (1977)	
Colorado College Summer Music Festival	June 2006
John Adams: Chamber Symphony	
University of Indianapolis Contemporary Music Series	March 2006
Sofia Gubaidulina: Duo-Sonata for two bassoons (1977)	
Albion College Faculty Chamber Music Series	February 2006
Felix Mendelssohn: Concertpiece no. 2 in d minor for clarinet, bassoon, and piano, op. 114	
Delaware Symphony Chamber Music Series	March 2003
Emile Bernard: <i>Divertissement</i> , op. 36	
Vincent d'Indy: <i>Chanson et Danse</i> , op. 50	
Charles Gounod: <i>Petite Symphonie</i> (1885)	
Florent Schmidt: <i>Lied et Scherzo</i> , op. 54	
Relâche Ensemble, Philadelphia PA	October 2002
Guy Klucevsek: <i>Stolen Memories</i>	
Christian Marclay: <i>Graffiti Composition</i>	
Waco Symphony Chamber Music Series	March 2002
Heitor Villa-lobos: <i>Bachianas Brasileiras no. 6</i> , for flute and bassoon	
International Horn Symposium	June 2001
Eric Ewazen: <i>Roaring Fork</i> for wind quintet	
Western Wind Quintet , one-year position	2000-2001
Kalamazoo Symphony Wind Quintet , substitute	2000-2001
Settlement Music School Wind Quintet	1998-1999
Substitute for approximately 30 outreach concerts in Philadelphia public and parochial schools	
Quintet of the Americas	February 1997
Recital at Society of the Americas	

Solo Engagements

Conference of the International Double-Reed Society Thomas Dunhill: Lyric Suite, op. 96	June 2011
Michigan State University Guest Artist Recital	October 2010
Grand Valley State University Guest Artist Recital	October 2010
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Recital (with John Bailey, flute)	October 2010
Conference of the International Double-Reed Society Karl Eduard Goepfert: Zwei Charakterstücke, op. 31 Jean Coulthard: Lyric Sonatina (1973)	June 2010
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chamber Music Institute Karl Eduard Goepfert: Zwei Charakterstücke, op. 31	June 2010
Colorado Springs Youth Symphony F.J. Haydn: Sinfonia Concertante for violin, oboe, cello, bassoon, and orchestra	November 2009
Lincoln Symphony Orchestra Dan Welcher: <i>Concerto da Camera</i> for bassoon and small orchestra	October 2009
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Symphony Orchestra F.J. Haydn: Sinfonia Concertante for violin, oboe, cello, bassoon, and orchestra	October 2009
University of Arkansas Guest Artist Recital	October 2008
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Recital	September 2008
Conference of the International Double-Reed Society Samuel Adler: Canto XII for solo bassoon	July 2008
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Symphonic Band Gordon Jacob: Concerto for Bassoon and Band	October 2007
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Recital	September 2007
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chamber Orchestra Dan Welcher: <i>Concerto da Camera</i> for bassoon and small orchestra (regional premiere of 2006 revision)	April 2007
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lecture-Recital, "The Bassoon Sonatas of Alec Wilder"	February 2007
Western Michigan University Faculty Recital	March 2001
Northwestern University Contemporary Music Series M. William Karlins: <i>Four Inventions and a Fugue</i> , for bassoon, piano, and female voice	April 2000
Barat College, Lake Forest IL Guest Artist Recital	November 1999
Haddonfield Symphony Orchestra Daniel Dorff: <i>The Tortoise and the Hare</i> , solo contrabassoon	November 1998

Honors and Awards

Michigan State University , graduate teaching assistantship	2003-2006
Concerto Competition finalist	2003, 2005
Northwestern University , graduate teaching assistantship	1999-2000
Graduated with Academic Distinction	1996
Graduated with Performance Honors	1996
Elected to Pi Kappa Lambda	1995
Selected to perform with Quintet of the Americas	1995
Selected to perform with Ursula Oppens, piano	1995
Victor Garwood Award for musical and academic excellence	1995
National Merit Scholar	1992
Dean's List (every term enrolled)	1992-1996
Temple University , graduate teaching assistantship	1996, 1997

Professional Organizations

American Federation of Musicians
College Music Society
International Double-Reed Society
Lincoln Symphony Orchestra Players' Committee (Chair, 2010-present)
Pi Kappa Lambda

Published Media

Recordings:

HCD 32037 M. William Karlins: *Four Inventions and a Fugue*, for bassoon, piano, and female voice (with Katharina Rössner, soprano, and Diana Schmück, piano). Hungaroton Records, 2001

Film Credits:

An Apology to the Dead. Dir. Timothy Gunn and Jonathan Worful. Vernacular Films, 2006. Solo Bassoon and Conductor.

Reviews:

“...the Symphony was joined by bassoonist Jeffrey McCray for a solid rendition of the Dan Welcher *Concerto da Camera* for Bassoon and Small Orchestra.... McCray's rendering was superb, and Welcher, in the audience, was smiling at the end.”

John Cutler, *Lincoln Journal Star*, 23 October 2009

“The woodwinds [in Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony] were excellent, as usual, with some wonderful solos by oboist Michael Miller and bassoonist Jeffrey McCray.”

James Ball, *Battle Creek Enquirer*, 2 May 2006

“The woodwind playing was outstanding, particularly Jeffrey McCray on bassoon...”

James Ball, *Battle Creek Enquirer*, 9 February 2004

“The heart-rending slow movement [of Tchaikovsky's Third Symphony] featured superb solo work from bassoonist Jeffrey McCray and French horn player Robert Murray.”

Mark Arnest, *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 4 January 2004

“The most interesting piece on the record is *Four Inventions and a Fugue*...the composer somehow makes the unruly bassoon (marvelously played by Jeffrey McCray) seem soulful and melancholy during an all-too-rare moment of pure melody.”

Daniel Felsenfeld, www.andante.com, July 2001