

Ronald White, Clarinet



Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: Principal Clarinet

Q: When and how did you get started in music?

A: My mother was an elementary music teacher. I began piano lessons at 5 or 6 and made a deal with her that I could stop piano if I started band in 6th grade. I actually switched to bassoon in 7th grade but went back to clarinet from 8th grade onwards.

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: I began playing with SOST in the 1993-94 season as Assistant Principal. I served as Acting Principal from 2006-2008 and again from 2009-2011. I have been Principal Clarinet since 2011.

Q: Educational background?

A: I grew up in Port Neches, Texas and attended Port Neches-Groves HS. I Graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, MI. I have a BM in Clarinet Performance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX; and a MM in Clarinet Performance from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. I also attended Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL and am ABD (all but dissertation) on a DM in Clarinet Performance and a MM in Orchestral Conducting.

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: Stephen Girko (former principal Clarinet in the Dallas Symphony) and the late Howard Dunn, both of whom I studied with at SMU.

Q: What is your "day job?"

A: Director of Bands at Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School and St. Anne Catholic School in Beaumont, TX. I am also an IT specialist at St. Anne Catholic School.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: I have an extensive collection of classical music recordings, and enjoy sailing, scuba diving, and building computers. (We lost our 32 foot Endeavour Sailboat in Hurricane Ike.)

Q: Favorite music?

A: I'm a sucker for the big romantics Bruckner, Mahler, and Strauss.