

Musician Mondays

Deborah Ellwood, Principal Horn Player

1. What is your position in the North Port Symphony?

I play in the principal horn (1st horn) position in NPS.

2. How long have you been in the North Port Symphony?

About 8 years (not entirely certain). I came on board the same year as R. Romanski, our director.

3. What drew you to music? Why do you play?

I had a very musical family (vocal/instrumental). They encouraged me -- as did my band directors and my private tutor. I lived in a college town and was able to play in several ensembles that were challenging. I loved it!

4. How long have you been playing your instrument?

I played from 7th grade on through my sophomore year in college. At that point I switched majors from Music Ed. to Elementary Education. No more music as I had a LOT of catching up to do. I saw many more career opportunities in Elem. Ed. and NEEDED to get a job! Didn't play until my 50s again. CRAZY! Anyone can pick up their instrument again if they so desire -- and MAN!! I did! Had to work hard at it to get back to my old 'horn-self'. It was worth it!

5. What do you enjoy most about the North Port Symphony?

First and foremost, the opportunity to get to play in an orchestra. Secondly, the gratification I experience knowing that I am bringing music 'to the people'. So many people have written of their wonderful experiences with our programming, content, and special musical guests. I am so blessed to be a small part of that.