



AMY NELSON

Featured Cornet Soloist

Amy Nelson's versatile resume crosses classical and commercial spectrums, ranging from pop and Broadway to orchestral, brass band, and chamber. A native of Waukegan, Illinois, she has lived and performed around the world. As a New York City resident, she was an active freelance musician and worked on Broadway. She spent two years as lead trumpet touring with the International Broadway tours of *Cinderella*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *The Sound of Music*. She's currently a musician in Chicago's Broadway theaters and a busy performer around the Chicagoland area with a variety of ensembles and styles of music. Amy is a member of the Alliance Brass Quintet, which keeps a busy performance and educational schedule, both throughout the United States and internationally. Amy has performed with pop star Adele at Chicago's United Center and Iceland's art rock band Sigur Ros at New York City's Madison Square Garden.

Amy is a passionate champion of the cornet's warm, lyrical, and expressive qualities. Amy holds five North American Brass Band Association Solo Champion titles, placing in the top three at NABBA's solo competitions a record ten times. She has soloed at events like the Great American Brass Band Festival, the Grand Celebration of Brass Bands, the Grant Park Music Festival, the International Women's Brass Conference, the Illinois Music Educator Association Conference, and the World Music Festival. She has held principal cornet positions with the Red Shield Brass Band, the Chicago Brass Band, the Illinois Brass Band, and the Princeton Brass Band. Her solo recording *Song Of Hope* (Peter Meechan) can be heard on Red Shield Brass Band's CD *Spero Per Musica*. Amy has performed with and coached brass bands across the USA, which have enjoyed success at competitions in the United States, United Kingdom, and Europe.

Amy is a performing artist for Smith Watkins and Denis Wick.

ABOUT THE BBCI

The Brass Band of Central Illinois was formed in 2004 to actively promote the cultural awareness and tradition of brass bands. It also provides a musical outlet for brass players who enjoy the unique sound and instrumentation of brass band music.



Based in Bloomington as a non-profit organization, the band is dedicated to providing concerts that are both entertaining and educational. Performing a wide variety of music, the band offers indoor concerts in May and December, as well as outdoor concerts every summer. All of our concerts are free and fully accessible to the public, with no admission or tickets required.

Our membership comprises volunteer musicians from all walks of life, including current and retired band directors, employees of State Farm Insurance, as well as a retired ISU mathematics professor, a Dept. of Homeland Security employee, and a civil engineer. Many of our members reside in Bloomington/Normal, but others travel from Peoria, LaSalle, El Paso, Springfield, Monticello, Champaign/Urbana, Gridley, and Frankfort in order to rehearse and perform with the band.



Since 2007, Dr. Sharon Huff has been the Music Director and conductor of the band. Dr. Huff is a retired music professor and former public school music teacher who previously taught at Millikin University, Illinois State University, St. Norbert College, and Unit 5 Schools in Normal, IL. Dr. Huff is a native of Bloomington/Normal, and she holds a B.M.E. summa cum laude from ISU and a M.M. and D.M.A. from the University of Illinois.