

Foothills Brass

Q U I N T E T

Foothills Brass Member Bios



Chris Morrison, trumpet

Founder of the Foothills Brass Quintet in 1981, Chris Morrison was born in Trail, British Columbia and grew up in the Northwest Territories. He studied music at the Universities of Alberta and Toronto (B. Mus.) and the Banff Centre. A member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, Mr. Morrison was also the Principal Trumpet of the Thunder Bay Symphony and has performed with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Edmonton Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, and the Banff Festival Orchestra. Outside of music, Chris enjoys camping, hiking, and riding his horse, bicycle, and vintage motorcycles.



Joanna Schulz, french horn

Joanna Schulz was born in Nanaimo, British Columbia and studied music at the University of British Columbia (B. Mus., M. Mus). Joanna has also pursued studies overseas in prestigious programs in both Switzerland and Norway. Ms. Schulz has performed with the Auckland Philharmonia, Vancouver Symphony, Victoria Symphony and the Vancouver Island Symphony. When not playing her horn, you can usually find her buried in a science magazine or the newest book on neuropsychology.



Jay Michalak, trumpet

Jay Michalak hails from Chicago, IL, and completed his musical studies at Northwestern University (B. Mus.), the University of British Columbia (M. Mus.), Aspen Festival and School, and the Banff Centre. Mr. Michalak has been a member of the Chicago Civic Orchestra, the Tacoma Symphony, the Bellevue Philharmonic and the Lyric Brass Quintet. He is also the director of A Band of Outriders, a high-powered, entertaining ensemble affiliated with the Calgary Stampede. Jay enjoys skiing, fishing, traveling, a good daily dose of yoga, and his own unique brand of exercise - "slogging"!



Catie Hickey, trombone

Catie Hickey is a native of Chicago, IL and attended the Eastman School of Music (B. Mus.) and Rice University (M. Mus). Catie has enjoyed performances with Orquesta Sinfonica Sinaloa de las Artes, Rochester Philharmonic, and Youth Orchestra of the Americas. Ms. Hickey was a Faculty Member of the Alfredo San Malo Music Festival in Panama City, Panama and has participated in projects with the Cultures in Harmony organization, most recently to Cameroon. When not playing a giant paper clip, she enjoys rooting for the Chicago Cubs and Blackhawks, and tracing through topography maps in hopes of creating the perfect loop hike.



Bob Nicholson, tuba

Born in Montague, PEI, Bob Nicholson pursued music at the University of PEI, the Royal Conservatory of Music, the University of Toronto and the Music Academy of the West. Bob has played extensively in pit orchestras including four year run in Phantom of the Opera in Toronto and Anne of Greene Gables in Charlottetown every summer. Mr. Nicholson is the founder of ECMA winning jazz band The Jive Kings and has performed with most symphony orchestras from Thunder Bay east: Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener, Windsor, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Bob enjoys outdoor activities with his two boys and aspires to break 80 on the golf course.