

## Benjamin Giesbrecht

Benjamin grew up in Saskatoon and his musical success began early, with him being in Saskatchewan Honour Band from 2009 – 2011. He then spent 6 years studying at the University of Saskatchewan. Ben studied with Arlene Shiplett from his first year of playing until completing his undergrad music studies, totalling 11 years. While obtaining his Bachelor of Music – Music Education (Honours) and his Bachelor of Education, Ben maintained an active performing and teaching schedule. Ben sat first chair in the University of Saskatchewan Wind Orchestra from the fall of 2012 until spring of 2018, with the exception of one term while he interned. This included the 2015 WASBE performances, and performances shared with artists like Allen Vizzutti, Jens Lindemann, Dean McNeil, Al Kay, and TorQ.

During the same period, Ben performed alongside many other ensembles, including North Saskatchewan Wind Symphony, U of S Jazz Ensemble, Saskatoon Youth Orchestra, Saskatoon Summer Players, and Saskatoon Chamber Singers. He performed with many brass quintets, began composing, and developed an active interest with research and techniques dealing with Music Performance Anxiety. While at the U of S, he also did many beginner clinics and sectionals, throughout the province, and taught some private lessons.

Ben credits much of his performance and teaching success to his other main pursuit at the time, competitive air rifle shooting. His career in the sport saw him train with Cory Neifer, who was a 2008 Olympic coach and 2012 Olympic athlete, among other big names in the sport. He saw success at several national competitions, an international silver, and coached a cadet team to provincial silver. This led him to be rostered on the 2013 National Junior Team.

After completing his studies, Ben began teaching full time in Loon Lake and Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. In his first year of teaching, Ben grew the beginner band at Gateway Elementary School to nearly twice its original size. He currently teaches music, band, and rock band to Grades 1 to 12 at Ernie Studer School and teaches band to Grades 9 to 12 at Carpenter High School. He also started an extra-curricular jazz band program in 2020 at Carpenter High School.