

Musician Questions for Racine Symphony Orchestra Newsletter

Name (as you would like it to be listed): Pat Badger

Instrument: Trumpet

How long have you performed with the RSO? Since 1971

When did you first start playing your instrument? In 4th grade, but I also began studying piano when I was 5 years old.

What is your favorite piece to play? Whatever I'm working on at the moment, since I love different kinds of music. Sometimes the trumpet plays solos and sometimes it plays in ensembles. Sometimes it plays Renaissance fanfares and Baroque flourishes and sometimes it plays Classical symphonies and Swing Band jazz. What a cool and versatile instrument!

What motivates you to keep playing? Making music is not just my work; it's my passion. Playing music makes me a more vibrant version of myself. It's taught me to lead and to follow, to prepare and to improvise. I can get as absorbed in the process of practicing as in the art of performing. Playing music is never "finished;" there's always new things to think about and new ways to play. Art inspires lifelong learning in me. And it touches my soul.

What advice do you have for young musicians and those just starting to learn an instrument? You are about to begin a great adventure. No matter what you do with your music, it will change your life. And, you never have to stop - no matter your age. Whatever music you learn will stay in your heart and soul forever. Isn't that an amazing thing?"