

## MUSIC MATTERS

Steven Franklin, *associate principal trumpet*

### **What is your favorite musical memory?**

There are too many to pick a favorite! The first that comes to mind is a late-night jam session I played with Uyghur musicians while travelling in Xinjiang in northwest China. It is beautiful to make music together across cultural divides.



### **What is something you've missed this past year with the pandemic?**

My wife and I love to travel. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to do much this year. I've also missed being able to perform for live audiences in Helzberg Hall with my wonderful colleagues!

### **Have you learned or discovered anything positive through your pandemic experience?**

I've used some of my extra time to set up a home studio and to learn how to create and edit recordings. I have multiple projects currently in the works, so stay tuned! I've also taken up triathlon and disc golf in order to get outside and stay healthy.

### **What excites you about the work you're doing now with the Symphony?**

Normally, we're so busy it's very difficult to find time to get together and make a recording. But lately, I've participated in several recording sessions, which is very exciting. I'm also looking forward to playing more Mobile Music Box concerts around beautiful Kansas City when the weather warms up!

### **How do you think it will feel to play for in-person audiences in Helzberg Hall again?**

There's no feeling like playing great music for a full house. I've often thought back to some of my favorite performances from last season — Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, the all-Beethoven concert with Emanuel Ax, Pam Frank, and Yo-Yo Ma, and many others. They were such powerful moments. I can't wait to play live for our patrons again.

### **Do you have another special skill or hobby people might not know about?**

Most people know me as a trumpet player, but the other half of my musical life is composition. I love to spend hours, or even the entire day late into the night, in my studio writing a new piece of music. For me, composing is like pulling fish out of a river that is constantly flowing. There are a stream of possibilities. But they only become music when I "catch" them and write them down. So I like when I have plenty of time to catch as many "fish" as possible and write lots of music!

### **Why do you think music matters?**

Music communicates what cannot be conveyed by words or images alone. It tells our stories, expresses our emotions, and draws us together. Just like we need food and water to nourish our bodies, we need music and art to enrich our spirits. And it's a deeply human need that's universal across all cultures.

Learn more about Steven >>> [kcsymphony.org/musician/steven-franklin](https://kcsymphony.org/musician/steven-franklin)

Hear Steven perform >>> [youtube.com/watch?v=xCERKYoLDK0](https://youtube.com/watch?v=xCERKYoLDK0)