

Ross Brownlee, Conductor



Ross started his musical adventures at a young age, never imagining that his piano, trombone and vocal training would one day find him leading choirs and wind bands! He majored in Orchestral Trombone performance, earning degrees from Northern Illinois University and McGill University in Montreal. It was in Montreal that Douglas Kirk, his friend, mentor, and a fine early music player and historian, introduced him to the sackbut, and with that, the stunning repertoire of the Renaissance and early Baroque. Douglas himself is featured on many fine early recordings with Studio de Musique Ancienne de Montréal and The Gabrielli Consort and Players from London, England.

Although Ross was never destined to be a sackbut virtuoso, he routinely found himself playing alongside many of Montreal's finest early musicians and learning their style, phrasing and beautiful lyrical performance practice. Over time, he attended the Vancouver Early Music Festival and then the Amherst Early Music Festival in New London (Connecticut) where he is now on faculty, teaching courses, leading ensembles and co-directing the work-study program. He has had the privilege of working closely with leading performers from the United States, the Netherlands, Canada and Belgium, and studying with Charles Toet, Wim Becu and Bruce Dickey of Concerto Palatino.

Here in Winnipeg, Ross is very fortunate to spend most of his days coaching and directing the instrumental ensembles at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate. Working with students as motivated, positive and energized by music as they are is, indeed, a privilege. Just this past summer, he worked with Drs. Mark Hopkins of Acadia University, and Mark Scatterday of the famed Eastman Wind Ensemble in the Acadia Wind Conducting course at Acadia University.

Currently, Ross is co-conductor of Camerata Nova and looks forward to leading this ensemble with instrumentalists from the WSO, Montreal and Minneapolis in a program of the grand music of Renaissance Italy entitled *Venice Vespers and Viols*.