

Dr. Kate Umble Smucker is an accomplished performer, dedicated educator and passionate visionary for the arts. Her energy has driven her to touch the lives of many fellow musicians, educators, composers and most importantly students. She has served the music community as an entrepreneur, bringing to life wide ranging ventures wherever she has lived. Currently residing in Lancaster, PA, she is the Director of Athletic Bands at Eastern University and an active freelance trumpet player.

From 2016–2023 she was based in New York City, where she taught elementary general music and middle school band at The Grace Church School. She was also a member of Calliope Brass and as the education and curriculum coordinator, Kate contributed to the educational show, “What’s Your Story?” She is the founder and band leader of the 16 piece King Street Big Band based in Lancaster, PA.

As a performer, Umble Smucker has been a part of many chamber orchestras and symphonies. Some of these include the Allentown Symphony, Lancaster Symphony, Kennett Symphony, the Allegro Chamber Orchestra as well as the Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra and the Northland Symphony.

Chamber music has always been one of her favorite musical outlets. In addition to her seven years as a member of Calliope Brass, she was the founder of Spark Brass and performed regularly with Quintessentially Brass and the Susquehanna Brass Quintet. She has also been a regular member of the Fulton Theatre Pit Orchestra and loves the challenge of playing cornet with Princeton, Fountain City and Lancaster British Brass Bands.

Umble Smucker’s perspective as an educator has shaped her life as a performer. She wholeheartedly believes in giving back and guiding musicians as they navigate entrepreneurship to find their niche in the music industry. She has shared her experiences in masterclass presentations at colleges and universities including Millersville University, Lebanon Valley College and West Chester University to name a few. She also has a love of research and building curriculum. Her teaching job at Grace Church School allowed her to implement Kodaly methodology from grade one general music all the way to grade 8 band while adding cross-curricular connections with science, social studies and language arts. While teaching at Millersville University she developed an entirely new course on Latin@ music and re-vamped the curriculum for Music 101 to include 10 live performances throughout the semester.

Her desire to teach comes from her own experiences in higher education. After earning her Bachelor's degree in trumpet performance and music education from the University of Northern Colorado, Umble Smucker went on to earn her Master's degree in Trumpet Performance from the University of North Texas and her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Trumpet Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In addition to her current position at Eastern University, she has been on faculty at Millersville University, Music Conservatory of Westchester and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Umble Smucker takes a holistic view of her identity as a musician. While performing and teaching occupy most of her time, collaborating with composers and supporting musicians who are pushing boundaries is a core part of her mission. From 2013-2016 she was the artistic director for Lancaster New Sounds, a concert series that showcased music of living composers. Her commissioned works include: *Sketches for Trumpet* by Jennifer Edmondson, *Stop. Rewind. Play.* by Benjamin D. Taylor, *Song for a Friend*, by Kevin McKee (Commissioned by Friends of John Wacker). With Calliope Brass she commissioned *A Garden Story* by Sara Jacovino, *Story Suite*, by Kat Sherrell and *Calliope Theme Song*, by Jen Hinkle and Kat Sherrell. With Spark Brass she commissioned *Pinocchio Portraits*, by Sy Brandon, *Boomwhacker Blues*, arr. Aaron Linscheid and *Pattern in Isolation*, by Tyler Gilmore. Recording credits include: *Calliope Brass: A Rose Strewn Course* and *Nenad Bach with King Street Big Band: World Peace in One Hour*. Additionally, she can be heard on *Spark Brass Presents: Carnaval to the Music Hall*.

Her curious spirit and dedication for the community are ever-evolving in her continued effort to inspire others to create music as well as grow and discover all aspects of one's self. Umble Smucker uses her training as a certified yoga instructor to work with musicians, customizing her classes to their unique needs as performers. Her Amtrak+Septa commute allows her to immerse herself in fiction and nonfiction books. She not only enjoys reading but also loves getting outdoors and going on hikes, snowshoeing and backpacking and enjoys spending time with her husband and two young sons.