

# AN ARTIST'S CORNER

*featuring*

## Dr. Kristy Morrell



Kristy Morrell, Chair of the department of Winds, Brass, and Percussion, has been a faculty member at USC for more than 20 years teaching french horn, chamber music and career strategies. She has been a member of Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra for nearly two decades and performs frequently with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Opera, Pasadena Symphony, Pacific Symphony, and the Los Angeles Bach Festival. Active also as a soloist, chamber musician, and clinician, she has appeared at numerous professional symposia, as well as at leading universities and conservatories. She is also a respected recording artist, having performed on numerous motion pictures, television soundtracks, and records.

Kristy has a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California, where she also received her Master of Music. She received a Bachelor of Music and a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester New York. She was the First Place winner of the International Horn Society solo competition, and also the First Place winner of the solo competition at the

International Women's Brass Conference.

She resides in Southern California with her husband Steve, daughter Libby, and son Russell.

***How old were you when you began playing your instrument? Did you start playing another instrument before your current one?***

I was 12 and began playing in the band. I did not play another instrument at the time but added piano in my senior year of high school.

***What are some of the highlights of your career?***

There have been many. I feel very fortunate to have had so many wonderful opportunities to perform and teach. Touching the life of someone else is such an honor.

***What or who inspired you to play your instrument?***

I am the youngest of all my cousins and immediate family. When it came time to pick my instrument for band, I got the one that was in the attic. It was a French horn.

***With whom did you study?***

I studied with John Jacobson at Interlochen, Verne Reynolds at Eastman, Vince DeRosa at USC.

***How old were you when you decided that you were going to be a professional musician?***

I decided to play the horn when I was 13. My mom told me to go for it and I have never looked back.

***What are some of your favorite etude books?***

I love all etudes. I am currently playing trumpet etudes but also love trombone and tuba etudes.

***What are your feelings about students majoring in music education versus music performance?***

I think students should follow their passion. It is never a good idea to use education as a "fallback". Teach if it is your passion, the students deserve your very best efforts.

***Is anyone else in your family a musician?***

No, in fact they are not even really fans of classical music.

***What advice would you give to someone interested in majoring in music in college?***

Find a great teacher for your instrument at least 4 years before college. Most of the important fundamental work needs to be done before college in order to be successful in the music world.