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Bio for Brendan McBrien – 2023 WC 273

Brendan McBrien grew up in Sunnyvale, California where he began his musical training on the French horn in 4th grade. He moved to Southern California to attend California State University, Long Beach, receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in music composition and conducting.
For over 30 years he was a professional French horn player in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas playing for symphony, television, movie, and theater orchestras. Brendan's many compositions and arrangements for band and orchestra are performed worldwide and published with the Alfred, Belwin, Kendor, and Kjos Music Companies.

Brendan is an active adjudicator, clinician, and honor group conductor who has served six terms on the board of the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. He has presented many workshops at both state and local conventions and has received several awards including Middle School Teacher of the Year for the Irvine Unified School District and Orange County Department of Education. Brendan began teaching in the Irvine Unified School District in 1988 and has been the director of bands and orchestras at Irvine High School, Venado Middle School, and most recently Rancho San Joaquin Middle School. In June of 2022, he retired from the Irvine USD after 34 years of teaching. Since 2015 he has taught Music Arranging, Brass Methods, and student teaching supervision at California State University, Long Beach. He is also an adjunct faculty member in the music department of UCLA and Concordia University, Irvine where he teaches music education courses. Decidedly, Brendan's greatest joy is being married to his wife of 34 years Karen, and father to his sons Kevin, and Patrick, and daughter Megan.