

Dr. Michael Underwood is in his 16th season as Principal Trombone of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and 13th year as Advanced Instructor of Music at UA Little Rock.

Dr. Underwood gave the Arkansas premiere of Christian Lindberg's *Mandrake in the Corner* with the Little Rock Wind Symphony. He served in the United States Air Force "Band of the Golden West," where he was a featured artist in three primary ensembles. He was a fellow performer at the Joseph Alessi Trombone Seminar, and principal trombonist on both ASO and USAF Band of the Golden West compact-disc recordings.

Dr. Underwood is the director of the UA Little Rock Jazz Ensemble. The band has been featured at regional jazz festivals, and has hosted saxophonist Steve Owen and trombonist Nick Finzer. His arrangements have been performed by the ASO, at the Joseph Alessi Seminar, and Big XII Regional Trombone Conference. In addition, he has published three trombone quartets of Debussy's piano music.

Dr. Underwood graduated cum laude from Lawrence University, earned two master's degrees from Bowling Green State University, and a DMA from the University of North Texas. His teachers include Nick Keelan, Vern Kagarice, Paul Hunt, and John Kitzman.

Naoki Hakutani is currently an Associate Professor of Piano at UA at Little Rock. Dr. Hakutani is very active as a solo pianist having performed at Weil Recital Hall, Seoul Art Center, Qingdao University of Science and Technology and Osaka University among others. As a collaborative pianist, he has performed with the Arianna String Quartet, Quartet X, Grammy Award winning mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Principal Flutist Christina Smith. He is the pianist of the Albani Piano Trio, and makes frequent joint appearances with his wife, pianist Jaeyeon Park throughout Asia and the United States.

Dr. Hakutani holds degrees from Northwestern University, Indiana University at Bloomington and the University of Texas at Austin studying with Donald Isaak, Shigeo Neriki and Betty Mallard. He studied chamber music with Timothy Lovelace, Gregory Allen and Daniel Ching.

Dr. Hakutani is Co-Director of the UA Little Rock Piano and Strings Festival. He is active nationally and internationally as an educator, having conducted master classes throughout the United States, Mexico and Asia. Most recently, he presented master classes at University of North Dakota, Sejong University, Osaka University, and Kaywon School for the Arts. Dr. Hakutani was named 2016 ASMTA Teacher of the Year.