



Dr. David Nelson: Conductor, Educator, and Music Historian

Dr. David Nelson dedicated **33 years** to higher education, serving as a respected professor at both the **University of New Orleans** and the **University of North Carolina Greensboro**. Following his retirement in 2020, the University of North Carolina System recognized his contributions by naming him **Professor Emeritus of Music**.

A Distinguished Musical Career

Dr. Nelson's academic foundation includes a **Bachelor of Music *cum laude*** from the **University of Michigan** and two graduate degrees—a **Master of Music** and a **Ph.D.**—from **Northwestern University**.

A versatile conductor, he has led a wide range of ensembles, from university bands and wind ensembles to professional orchestras to the longest-performing community orchestra in Louisiana. His conducting for the theater includes operas by **Mozart** and **Puccini** and musicals by **Sondheim** and **Kander & Ebb**. He currently enjoys playing **bass clarinet** with the **Moore County Community Band**.

In Mozart's Footsteps

Beyond the podium, Dr. Nelson is the founder and director of **In Mozart's Footsteps**, a musical travel company. He brings music lovers to Europe's musical capitals to study history and attend world-class performances. His expertise in this area is highlighted by his three books on the musical sites of **Vienna** and **Salzburg**.

His work was internationally recognized in 2008 when the city of Vienna presented him with its **Golden Medal of Honor**. This prestigious award is the second highest the city has ever given to an American citizen, placing him in the distinguished company of the late **Leonard Bernstein**, who received the higher honor.