

BIOGRAPHY

Zach Brake ("ZB") has been a musician in Colorado since he joined his junior high concert band at Kinard in Fort Collins, where he tried his best to play the trumpet. He continued his musical career through his time at Fossil Ridge High School, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of Northern Colorado. During that time, he switched to **tuba, trombone, euphonium, and electric bass** as his main instruments and now is a professional musician, performing and teaching throughout Colorado.

In 2015, ZB founded the Brass Band ***Guerrilla Fanfare*** or GuFa for short, which he manages and directs. As the leader of this group, GuFa has performed hundreds of times across the state, performing at many venues, festivals, municipality events and garnering Westword Magazine's Distinguished Brass Band award two times in 2018 and 2019. Guerrilla Fanfare has performed across the country, including Seattle, WA, Austin, TX and New York, NY. ZB loves jazz, starting a jazz trio in 2024 called ***Speak the Future*** to perform original compositions and reinterpretations of jazz standards. He is a former member of the Fire It Up Brass Band, Gora Gora Orkestar and the Royal Street Ramblers, and is under constant demand as a tuba, trombone, and especially sousaphone player across the Denver-metro area, recently subbing in such groups as the Otone Brass Band, Badda Boom Brass Band, Jakarta Band, Illegal States Brass Band, No Hands Brass Band, Brass Animals, the Trom-Bombs, the Denver Brass and the Denver Municipal Band.

Since 2021, Mr. Brake as he is known in public ed is a ***Band Director in Mapleton Public Schools***, where he conducts the *Skyview Symphonic Band*, teaches 6th grade beginning band at various K-6 and K-8 schools, and is the director of the *Jazz Studies Program* which consists of two jazz ensembles: the *Jazz Lab Band* and the *Mapleton Jazz Messengers*. Mr. Brake arranges all the music for both the Jazz Studies Bands to fit the unique instrumentation and teaches the young musicians true improvisation and jazz style applicable to the working musician. Mr. Brake regularly invites guest musicians to clinic the jazz bands and organizes the *Mapleton Jazz Festival* where students learn from instrument specific professionals. Passionate about collaboration and opportunity, Brake also has organized side by side concerts with Guerrilla Fanfare and the Mapleton Jazz Studies program, Colorado Mesa University Rowdy Brass Band, Longmont Concert Band, Mead HS Marching Band & Unified Percussion, and Twin Peaks Charter Academy and regularly has the group perform in schools including schools in Denver Public Schools, Jefferson County SD, St Vrain Valley Schools, and Natrona County SD in Casper, WY. In 2023, Brake worked with Dr. Dockendorf of the University of Colorado to have Guerrilla Fanfare be a featured guest with the *Golden Buffalo Marching Band* for a special pair of half time performances for the first two home CU Football games of the season with Coach Prime at Folsom Field. This year, Mr. Brake is also organizing a new *Mapleton Middle School Honor Band Festival*, to give opportunity to students in small schools and school districts to be able to experience an honor band format. Brake has also guest conducted the *Mapleton Wind Ensemble & Longmont Concert Band*, and in his prior position has guest conducted the *Frederick High School Band & Orchestra*.

His education includes a Master of Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado where he was recognized as the distinguished graduate-level music education graduate of his class, and a Bachelor of Music Education & Certificate in Music Technology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, which was awarded with highest honors, as well as nearly a decade of experience directing, managing, producing, composing & arranging music for and performing hundreds of times with Guerrilla Fanfare. His compositions with Guerrilla Fanfare include *F-Town*, *Muchacho*, *Fall Out*, *New Shoes*, *Pools*, *Heads Up*, *Cymbology*, and *TFR* as well as numerous new compositions yet to be released in an album. Some of his best pop arrangements for Guerrilla Fanfare include *Happy*, *My Type*, *Beat It*, *Feel Good Inc.*, *Levitating*, and *Walking on Sunshine*. In addition to arranging all the music for the Mapleton Jazz Studies program, he has most recently arranged a set of 4 concert band warmups and exercises, and an excerpt from Claude Debussy's *The Sunken Cathedral*, which was arranged special for a side by side performance with the Mapleton District Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and the Denver Brass. He is currently working on a *special composition* for the Colorado Mesa University Wind Symphony & Rowdy Brass Band which will premiere in December 2024 as part of the *CMU Best of West Festival* in Grand Junction, CO.

Prior to joining the Performing Arts team in Mapleton, Mr. Brake was the Director of Instrumental Music from 2016-2021 at Thunder Valley K-8 School for 5 school years, where he directed the concert bands, string orchestras and jazz ensembles. While at Thunder Valley, his concert band received "Excellent" ratings at the Colorado Bandmasters Association Festival, and his jazz ensemble received "Superior" ratings at the Skyline Jazz Festival.

Outside of music, ZB is an avid home cook, gamer, home improvement and DIY enthusiast who enjoys hiking, yoga, long walks, and - most importantly - time with friends and family.