

James Beckel

James Beckel has been principal trombonist of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra since 1969. He received his bachelor's degree in trombone performance from Indiana University, where he studied with Lewis Van Haney. Mr. Beckel has appeared as soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) on numerous occasions and has performed in several chamber ensembles.

In 1991, Mr. Beckel was the first recipient of the "Patch" Award, which now is presented yearly to an ISO musician who best exemplifies Renato Pacini's tradition of professionalism and service.

In addition to his time performing on stage, Mr. Beckel is a well-known composer. His works have been performed by orchestras throughout the United States including the Boston Pops, Houston Symphony, Baltimore, St. Louis, Detroit, Milwaukee, Atlanta, and numerous times by the ISO. Several of his works have been recorded by top military bands and by symphony orchestras, including Houston, Virginia, and the ISO.

A native of Marion, Ohio, Mr. Beckel has served as a clinician at the Mid-West Trombone Conference and Bands of America, and is currently Professor of Trombone at DePauw University and the University of Indianapolis. He and his wife, Lynda, have two grown children. Their son, David, works in finance in Manhattan, and their daughter, Julie, is the second hornist with the Indianapolis Symphony.