

# Jordan Shirtz, Trombonist

---

97 Words

A North Carolina native, Jordan Shirtz began playing trombone like many others—after discovering the instrument he wanted was already taken. Recognized for his versatility across alto, tenor, and bass trombone, he has performed with the Salisbury Symphony, Trade Street Brass, Watson Brass Band, and various ensembles across the state of North Carolina. A Kenan Music Scholar at UNC and Graduate Assistant for the UNCSCA Trombone Studio, he has premiered Luke Coker’s *Carolina Romp* in 2024 and will present the U.S. premiere of Friedrich Cerha’s *Otto Fogli* in 2026. Jordan currently studies with John Ilika at UNCSCA.

—

199 Words

A North Carolina native, Jordan Shirtz began his musical journey on trombone like many others—after discovering the instrument he wanted was already taken. What began as a reluctant compromise developed into a deep passion for performance that spans centuries of repertoire and a wide range of styles.

Jordan has performed with the Salisbury Symphony, Trade Street Brass, the National Music Festival Orchestra, Watson Brass Band, Bergstone Brass, and various other ensembles in the state of North Carolina. His artistry has been shaped by masterclasses with James Miller (Los Angeles Philharmonic), Devin Drinnan (North Carolina Symphony), and Ron Westray (formerly of Jazz at Lincoln Center), as well as performances under conductors including Richard Rosenberg, Matthew Kraemer, Kevin Noe, Chelsea Tipton, Michelle Merrill, Tõnu Kalam, and Evan Harger.

His collaborations include performances with the Choir of King’s College London funded through the Mildred Mayo Brown Undergraduate Research Fund, the Durham Medical Orchestra Trombone Choir conducted by Joseph Alessi, and a comedy feature with T.J. Miller. Jordan has received the Kenan Music Scholarship at UNC, Benjamin Swalin Orchestra Award, and UNCSCA Trombone Studio Graduate Assistantship. He currently studies with John Ilika at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

—

396 Words

A North Carolina native, Jordan Shirtz began his musical journey on trombone much like many others—after discovering the instrument he originally wanted was already taken. What began as a reluctant compromise has since become a lasting commitment to emotional expression through musical collaboration. Known for his versatility on alto, tenor, and bass trombone, as well as sackbut, Jordan performs a wide-ranging repertoire that bridges historical and contemporary traditions.

Jordan has performed with the Salisbury Symphony, Trade Street Brass, the National Music Festival Orchestra, Watson Brass Band, and ensembles at both UNC–Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA). His collaborative projects include a performance with the Choir of King’s College London through the UNC Sackbut Ensemble, participation in the Durham Medical Orchestra Trombone Choir conducted by Joseph Alessi, and a comedy segment with T.J. Miller.

In 2024, Jordan premiered *Carolina Romp* by Luke Coker and will give the U.S. premiere of Friedrich Cerha’s *Otto Fogli* in 2026—a work originally written for Walter Voglmayr, principal trombonist of the Vienna Symphony, with whom Jordan studied during his semester abroad in Austria in 2023. He has performed under the direction of Richard Rosenberg, Matthew Kraemer, Kevin Noe, Chelsea Tipton, Michelle Merrill, Tõnu Kalam, and Evan Harger, and has participated in masterclasses with James Miller (Los Angeles Philharmonic), Devin Drinnan (North Carolina Symphony), and Ron Westray (formerly of Jazz at Lincoln Center).

Jordan’s distinctions include the Kenan Music Scholarship at UNC, the Benjamin Swalin Orchestra Award, the Mayo Brown Undergraduate Research Grant, and the UNCSA Trombone Studio Graduate Assistantship. In addition to performing, he serves as an Archival Assistant in the UNCSA Archives, supporting the preservation and research of institutional collections. His recent archival work includes processing the Clarion Wind Quintet Collection, a library of more than 150 chamber compositions commissioned or collected by the first faculty woodwind quintet at UNCSA. He is currently engaged in the processing and recataloging of the UNCSA Archives’ audio and visual media collection, comprising over 1,500 items.

Jordan earned his Bachelor of Music degree from UNC–Chapel Hill, where he studied with Michael Kris. He is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under the guidance of John Ilika and lives in Salisbury, North Carolina, with his partner Chloe, their cat Biscuit, and their dog Doodle.