



BRAZOS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

SUMMER

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Dr Charles Kennard, Timpani

Thanks for the opportunity to toot my own horn, or, in this case, beat my own drum! I have been playing timpani for the BCO for about 3 years. I was a serious timpani student and performer in high school—also I was the timpanist for the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra of Chicago, but, after one semester of ensemble performance at Indiana University, I found my interest in biology and my calling to become a physician.

The academic requirements of my undergraduate and medical school courses left no time for playing music. I took an internship in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic, a residency in dermatology at the University of Michigan and a fellowship in skin cancer surgery at the University of Iowa.

Reflecting on my career choice, which I thoroughly loved, I see similarities with being an orchestral musician: everyone has to be a highly accomplished specialist, but teamwork and respect for one's colleagues is necessary to achieve the best result!

After a stint in the US Air Force Medical Corps, I settled in North Texas with my family. My oldest daughter "volunteered" me for the



Greetings

The original intent of this edition was to discuss how BCO came to be—the thought processes, contacts, and associations—but the more I delved into its history, this story took a turn, as they often do, and its focus now is on BCO's conductor and music director, Maestro David Anavitarte—a personable and interesting character with an amazing background.

David was born in Frankfurt, Germany, where his father was stationed while serving in the US Army. Just after David's third birthday, his family boarded the *USNS Upsbur*, which was part of a fleet that provided ocean transport for the US military—this included transporting troops and their dependents. According to ship records, the Anavitartes left Bremerhaven, Germany, on May 2, 1961, and arrived several days later in Brooklyn, NY, on May 11, 1961. What a grand adventure for a young boy!

The family eventually settled in New Jersey, where at the age of 7, David began piano lessons. In an earlier interview, David said there was a battle of the 3Bs—his mother wanted him to be exposed to Bach, Brahms, and Beethoven; but all he wanted was a bicycle, baseball, and Batman. It is clearly evident that they found a perfect balance between a mother's wishes and a young boy's dreams.



Southlake Community Band and I quickly realized that I had been missing the thrills and challenges of performing music.

I took some private lessons and played with various community bands and orchestras over a twenty year span. When the opportunity to play timpani with the BCO became available, it was a dream come true! I love playing the timpani because of the drama the drums impart to the orchestra.

After 36 years in medicine, I retired in 2022. Playing with the BCO, the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra, the Mansfield Wind Symphony, and various church assignments has kept me challenged and very busy.

I have two adult daughters and five grandchildren who live out of state. I also enjoy cycling and traveling.



David's mother started taking voice lessons from a member of the Philadelphia Opera Chorus and often took him to dress rehearsals. Can't you just see it? Little David seated behind the conductor—his arms cutting through the air mimicking the conductor and dodging glances from his occupied mother—not sure if these were of approval or otherwise. Most musicians and other performers understand just how much their talents affect people—make them feel the emotions of the performance—and instill dreams of wakening yet to be discovered talents.

During the latest BCO concert in Cleburne, seated a few rows in front of me, a young girl was doing the same—her arms slicing through the air keeping time with the music. A seed was planted; thankfully, no one told her to sit still.

Without detailing his full resume, David studied voice, piano, music education, and completed doctoral studies in conducting. He is one of those fortunate folks who is living his dream—even his high school yearbook notes that he planned to follow a musical career after graduation. The communities of Cleburne, Burleson, and Granbury are certainly glad he did.

Gary Braudaway

This upcoming fall edition of the BCO Newsletter will feature the former Katherine Lynne Baker—Kathy—David's wife of 42 years. She is the heart, supporter, encourager and cheerleader behind the scenes of BCO. They are blessed with two children, a son-in-law, a granddaughter, and a countless number of friends considered to be family.

For the latest information about BCO, please visit our website and Facebook page for upcoming performance dates and information how you can help BCO achieve its mission of Lightening the Heart, Stimulating the Mind, and Nourishing the Soul.

Brazos Chamber Orchestra
Concert Season 2025/2026

Each Concert Begins at 7:30 PM

Cleburne—Field Street Baptist Church	
Fall Concert—Monday, October 13	Winter Concert—Monday, February 16
Christmas Concert—Monday, December 8	Spring Concert—Monday, April 20
Burleson—The Center@Pathway Church	
Fall Concert—Sunday, October 19	Winter Concert—Sunday, February 22
Christmas Concert—Sunday, December 14	Spring Concert—Sunday, April 26
Granbury—First United Methodist Church	
Fall Concert—Monday, October 20	Winter Concert—Monday, February 23
Christmas Concert—Monday, December 15	Spring Concert—Monday, April 27

Free Admission