



BRAZOS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

AUTUMN

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Randal Senter, Principal French Horn

Randal Senter's first season with the BCO was in 2002, right after he moved back to Cleburne after finishing his master's degree at Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX. He started out as a substitute player, but then moved into the principal position later that season.

At first, Randal was just looking for a place to play to keep his chops in shape after six years of playing in college. He made some wonderful friends that first season and loved the music BCO performs. Maestro David Anavitarte's excellent direction made him want to come back year after year.

"In those early days of BCO, we were really just playing in Cleburne and Keene, but as that expanded to other cities, it became even more fun sharing music with folks who probably wouldn't drive to Dallas or Fort Worth to hear orchestral music."

During off season, Randal usually spends time with his family enjoying a vacation, relaxing somewhere, or at Disney World. He keeps up his chops by practicing as well as playing in quartets with fellow horn players, but his favorite summer break music activity is attending the Summer Reading Sessions put on by the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra which is conducted by BCO's principal violinist Dr Kurt Sprenger.



Greetings

Let me introduce you to Katherine Lynne Baker—Kathy—David's wife of 42 years. As mentioned in the Summer Newsletter, Kathy is the heart, supporter, encourager, and cheerleader behind the scenes of the Brazos Chamber Orchestra.

Kathy and David first met at Blue Mountain Academy in Pennsylvania during their high school years, but didn't start dating until college. They attended Columbia Union College in Maryland, now Washington Adventist University. While there Kathy was in gymnastics and David played piano for the gymnastics team.

I suppose they do things with class up north. I can't think of a single school in Texas that has a piano player for the gymnastics team. We were lucky to have a piano player to sweeten some of the sour notes of our childhood voices during the Christmas Pageant.

At Union, Kathy worked in the Chemistry Department and one day, David came by and interrupted her typing. Surely David had that all planned out. During a short conversation, he asked her out on their first date—a hockey game. Kathy accepted and they have been inseparable ever since. I don't believe things happen by accident—people are placed in our lives for a purpose. This union was meant to be.

Randal would like everyone to know just how blessed he is to be able to perform at such a high level after all these years even though he does not consider himself to be a "professional" full time horn player. The BCO has given him this opportunity for which he is grateful. He loves sharing music with communities outside of Dallas or Fort Worth. BCO performs not only fun pop music, but also exciting and moving classical selections that may expand audiences' musical palette.

Randal says, "David has always stressed that the good music we bring is rooted in the gifts that God has given to us. Jesus is at the center of each performance of the BCO, and I know that we have all been blessed with successful performances over the years because of this."

So, on June 4, 1983, Kathy's father, a pastor, officiated their wedding—marking the beginning of their shared journey of faith and music. Kathy told David all she wanted was to be a mom and to bring up her kids to know the Lord. She says their music ministry has profoundly touched their family on generational levels. Their son is a musician, singer, writer, and director; even their granddaughter can conduct music. This makes me wonder if the young girl I saw in Cleburne last spring swiping the air in time with the music was their granddaughter (see Summer 2025 Newsletter).

David says this journey is not about them; it's about experiencing Christ through music. He believes music is divine and was created even before we were—that music is part of heaven.

Music and worship ministry, spending time out in nature, and traveling are just a few of their favorite activities. David and Kathy enjoy country drives together, spending quiet time in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and looking for yooperlite rocks. They are blessed with two children, a son-in-law, a granddaughter, and a countless number of friends considered to be family.

David adds that being on this journey with Kathy makes it complete.

Gary Braudaway

To the right are pictured BCO Board Members Todd Evans and Sherry Reeves with Cleburne Mayor Scott Cain presenting City Proclamation for on September 23, 2025.



Bottom photo shows BCO Board Members Sherry Reeves, Kathy Anavitarte, and Gary Braudaway with Burleson Mayor Chris Fletcher and Burleson City Council Members presenting City Proclamation on October 6, 2025.



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