

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Lon Roach is a 1964 graduate of Glencoe High School (Minnesota) and earned a B.S. in Music Education ('68) and a Masters of Education degree from the University of Minnesota ('75). Roach studied clarinet with J. Cloyde Williams, former principle clarinetist with the Minneapolis Symphony (now Minnesota Orchestra); Ruben Haugen of the McPhail School in Minneapolis; and Robert Genovese of the Capitol Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. Throughout his years at the University of Minnesota he performed with its top performing group, the Concert Band Ensemble, as E flat soprano clarinetist and was a part of the 1969 seven week tour of the Soviet Union ending with a performance in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, D.C.

Following military service with the Continental Army Command Band at Fort Monroe, Virginia and the U.S. Army Alaska

Command Band at Fort Richardson, Alaska Roach returned to the University of Minnesota and worked with Dr. Frank Bencriscutto as a Graduate Assistant and an Assistant Director of Bands for two years. He also did graduate study in music composition with Dr. Bencriscutto and Eric Stokes.

In 2005 he participated in a joint grant resulting in funding through the Encore program of the American Composers Forum for the performance of his overture for concert band "Mantle of Freedom" by the Band of Long Island, N.Y.

Roach worked in the radio broadcast industry for 22 years, primarily with North American Broadcasting (KDUZ/KKJR) in Hutchinson, Minnesota. He retired from broadcasting in 2000 after many years as Public Affairs Director in order to devote more time to musical pursuits.

Roach is organist and choir director at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Glencoe, Minnesota where he has presented several clarinet recitals over the past decade. He also plays the piano and woodwinds with a jazz trio, Creekside Jazz.

Roach's involvement with strings came in 2005 when he joined a local community strings group composed mostly of young people of elementary and junior high age, but including several adults. In addition to playing violin and viola with the group he does special string arrangements for each of their major concert events. The community strings group numbers over 30 players. He also works with the Crow River Area Youth Orchestra in Hutchinson, Minnesota and plays viola as needed.