

Biography

Award winning baritone saxophonist Adrian Barnett has performed all across the nation at venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to Lollapalooza. He has been a featured soloist with symphony orchestras, jazz big bands, concert wind ensembles, and touring rock groups.

Adrian earned both a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Music Education and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Music Performance from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2006. In 2008 he earned a Master of Music (M.M.) in Saxophone Performance at Minnesota State University, Mankato. After receiving his M.M., he returned to Minnesota State University, Mankato as part of the music faculty acting as Interim Director of Jazz Studies for the 2008-2009 academic year. Adrian is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) in Jazz Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he has studied with Chip McNeill and Glenn Wilson. In 2011 Adrian won a Downbeat Award in the Jazz Soloist category for his performance on the University of Illinois Concert Jazz Band album "*Freeplay*."

Adrian has shared the stage with musical greats such as Wayne Bergeron, Denis DiBlasio, Tom Garling, Kirk Garrison, Nachito Herrera, The Hornheads, The Jack Brass Band, Kevin Mahogany, Andy Martin, Jim Snidero, Spoon, The Temptations, Fred Wesley, Glenn Wilson, Jim Widner, and many more.

Active not only as a performer, Adrian has been involved with music education on many levels. As well as teaching at the collegiate level, he has taught lessons at every level, worked as an assistant director and head percussion instructor for high school marching programs, directed small and large ensembles, written music for a variety of ensembles, given numerous clinics and guest artist appearances, adjudicated festivals, is a Vandoren artist and endorser, an active clinician, and continues to teach private lessons.