

2023 ITG Candidate Biographies and Platforms

All entries listed alphabetically by last name

Vice President / President-Elect (vote for one)

JASON DOVEL is chair of the Division of Winds, Brass, Percussion, and Jazz, as well as associate professor of trumpet in the School of Music at the University of Kentucky. During his 2021 sabbatical, he was visiting professor of trumpet at Ionian University in Corfu, Greece, and has appeared at nearly 100 universities and conservatories worldwide. He has recorded 4 solo CDs, authored 20 journal articles, and published more than 20 original compositions. He is a founding member of Quintasonic Brass, featured artists at the 2021 ITG Conference.



Dovel is principal trumpet of the Lexington Chamber Orchestra and spends summers playing for Charlottesville Opera. He plays Baroque trumpet with the Washington Bach Consort, Mountainside Baroque, Virginia Baroque, and others.

Currently serving ITG as a member of the board of directors, chair of competitions, and News editor, he has previously served as chair of New Works, chair of the Solo Division, Employment editor, Music reviewer, Research Room reviewer, and many other volunteer positions. He composed *The Legend of Pandora* for the 2019 ITG Non-Pro Players conference Ensemble and is a 2024 conference clinician for the Non-Pro Players Committee.

Additional service to the profession includes hosting the 2019 National Trumpet Competition and the 2022 North American Baroque Trumpet Conference and serving on the board of directors for the Historic Brass Society.

Statement of Platform: My platform can be summarized as “Innovation through Inclusion.” In my years of volunteer service to ITG, I have found the best ideas come when a diversity of voices is heard. I believe ITG’s innovations will come through inclusion of underrepresented people and repertoire, geographic inclusion through regional and international events, cultural inclusion by making publications available in additional languages, and occupational inclusion through creative programming for non-professionals. Building on the work I have done on the ITG board and as competitions coordinator, I would also like to continue to provide more opportunities and engagement for student trumpeters, both at the annual conference and throughout the year.

MARY THORNTON is professor of trumpet and chair of the Music Department at Texas



A&M University – Corpus Christi. A member of the Corpus Christi, Mid-Texas, and Victoria Symphonies, she holds degrees from Rice University, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and uw-Madison. Committed to new music for trumpet, Mary has participated in many commissions and consortiums over the years and developed an entirely new chamber repertoire for trumpet, cello, and percussion with Drumpetello. A longtime member of ITG, Mary has contributed articles, served on youth competition committees, presented at Youth Day, appeared on a Cancer Blows opening concert, and performed on New Works recitals and many Festival of Trumpets concerts. Mary joined the ITG board of directors in 2019 and happily served as a facilitator to secure major gifts for the ITG to serve its membership and long-term plans of growing membership from the cultivation of young members. Gaining experience in governance, Mary served for ten years on the board of the Corpus Christi Chamber Music Society and for two consecutive terms on the Executive Board of Local 23 of the American Federation of Musicians, San Antonio, Texas.

Statement of Platform: As we continue to emerge from the challenges of a global pandemic that has changed the musical landscape, it is imperative that we retain our core values and the belief that music—specifically all the music that involves trumpet—is important and that our work holds value. We must continue to advocate, fight, and educate our audiences, our public, that what we do matters. Trumpet players of all stripes make the world a better place. Our sense of community, the community that ITG gathers and grows and cultivates, is a beautiful thing. Our job moving forward is to take the positive things from this recent pandemic era (such as increased use of technology to facilitate a more global interaction and presence, a greater effort toward diversity and inclusion, less-rigid stylistic boundaries, and an over-arching attitude that we are all in this together) to grow our membership, hear more and varied voices, and explore new ideas that accomplish our goals while maintaining all of the things that have served to make ITG the fantastic organization that it is. I ask for your support in helping to move ITG forward into our new and ever-changing future.

Secretary (vote for one)

MARC REED is professor of music and director of the Schools of Music and Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration at The University of Akron. Previous performing experience includes principal trumpet of the San Juan Symphony Orchestra, third



trumpet of the Music in the Mountains Festival Orchestra, and solo cornet of the Great Western Rocky Mountain Brass Band. He has served on the faculties of Fort Lewis College, The University of Alabama-Birmingham, Waldorf College, Drake University, and the University of North Texas. Reed’s recording *Gone, But Not Forgotten* was released in 2016 on Mark Records. He holds degrees from the University of North Texas (DMA and MM) and Drake University (BM and BME) and studied trumpet with Keith Johnson, John Holt, Richard Giangiulio, and Andrew Classen.

Dr. Reed is a strong supporter of the International Trumpet Guild and has served as ITG secretary since 2021. He serves as editor of the “Trumpet in the Wind Band” column in the *ITG Journal*, chairs the Recording Committee, and chaired ITG’s summer 2021 treasurer search, which hired T.J. Tesh. He chaired the ITG youth competitions from 2015 to 2020, was the facilities coordinator at the 2015 and 2016 conferences, and has served as a conference reporter.

Statement of Platform: I am honored to again be nominated for secretary during this unique time in our history. ITG remains an important part of my professional life, one that I have supported and served in many roles. My background as an artist, teacher, and administrator has taught me how to assess organizational strengths and weaknesses and to implement improvement plans.

Now in my second year as ITG secretary, I am aware of the challenges our organization faces, and some of these obstacles are serious. However, ITG has proven to be resilient, and I am heartened by the new members entering our field and being elected to the board of directors. We have never had a leadership team that is as diverse as it now is, and I am excited about what lies ahead for ITG.

My goal is to make ITG stronger by being receptive to novel ideas and technologies that will attract new and younger members, help trumpeters in underserved regions, improve ITG’s global presence, and allow for needed organizational growth. If we do this well, ITG will continue to fulfill its mission for generations of future trumpet lovers.

CARRIE BLOSSER is a military musician currently serving as trumpet instrumentalist with



Navy Band Great Lakes in North Chicago, Illinois. Her last duty station was US Fleet Forces Band in Norfolk, Virginia. Equally comfortable in various genres,

Blosser plays over 100 concerts and ceremonies annually in groups such as the brass quintet, rock band, and wind ensemble. Before military service, she conducted the Rocky Mountain Concert Band and was the director of bands at Cooper Junior and Senior High School in Cooper, Texas. Dr. Blosser is a founding member of Calypsus Brass, a professional brass chamber ensemble, and Diversify the Stand, a resource promoting diversity in music; both are non-profit organizations for which Blosser is a board member. Actively involved with ITG for many years, she most recently presented at the 2022 ITG Conference and adjudicated the wind band competition finals. Previously Blosser recorded sessions for the 2021 ITG Virtual Conference and the 2020 “Listen and Learn” series. She served as a judge for the 2021 scholarship competition in the graduate, high school, and pre-high school divisions. She is the co-chair and founding member of the ITG Diversity and Inclusion Committee and writes articles and reviews for the *ITG Journal*.

Statement of platform: I would love the opportunity to serve on the board of directors for the International Trumpet Guild. I would bring a varied background of experience as a military musician, band director, studio teacher, and active chamber musician. My primary goal is to give back to the trumpet community; one way would be to increase membership between current and prior military trumpet players, fostering a community of service members. I am also interested in sharing relevant and current pedagogical materials with private lesson teachers and band directors worldwide. I am passionate about representation throughout ITG and will advocate for equality in all aspects of the organization. Through my experiences volunteering for other non-profit and military boards, I feel prepared to serve the ITG community and would be honored to do so.

JENNIFER DEARDEN is currently serving as the associate provost at Allegheny College



(Meadville, Pennsylvania), having previously served as a faculty member in the music department there since 2007. In addition to teaching trumpet lessons and music theory, she has conducted the Allegheny College Civic Symphony and has coached a variety of brass chamber groups. After performing with the Pittsburgh-based River City Brass for seven seasons, Dr. Dearden continues performing in the northwestern Pennsylvania area as a soloist and with the Northwest Passage Trumpet Trio. The trio performed in an ITG New Works Recital in 2019 and released its first CD, *Expeditions*, in 2020. Jennifer can also be heard on her 2015 CD, *Dialogues*, featuring works using the trumpet in a variety of chamber music settings. Jennifer earned a DMA at the University of North Texas (2007) and also holds degrees from Florida State University and Ithaca College. Her primary trumpet teachers include Keith Johnson, Bryan Goff, Frank Campos, and Lawrence Wright.

Jennifer is completing her first term as a member of the ITG board of directors, during which she served on the 2022 search committee for the ITG treasurer. Jennifer has also been active with ITG in the past, serving as a member of the Editorial Committee since 2019, the chair of the scholarship competition (2016 – 2020) and youth competition (2012 – 2014), and a member of the Committee on Inclusion (2012 – 2014).

Statement of Platform: I am honored to be given the chance to continue serving the International Trumpet Guild, an organization that has been such an immense source of knowledge and musical support for me for over twenty years. The difficult years of the pandemic made even more apparent the need for organizations like ITG. As musicians, we exist in and contribute to a community of care, and ITG helps provide the structure that allowed that care to continue during days of isolation and through rebuilding phases at our institutions and performance venues. Our next generation of musicians has now spent a significant portion of their formative musical years either remotely or without school ensembles altogether, making ITG’s outreach to and support of younger musicians, especially those from underserved populations, absolutely critical. I am excited to continue working with ITG to build bridges, continue educational efforts, and provide the support and community that allow trumpet music and trumpeters to thrive and flourish.

NADJE NOORDHUIS was one of ten semi-finalists in the 2007 Thelonious Monk Inter-



national Jazz Trumpet Competition. She is a member of the multiple GRAMMY-winning Maria Schneider Orchestra, GRAMMY-nominated Darcy James Argue’s Secret Society, and the

GRAMMY-nominated Anat Cohen Tentet.

She has released four albums of original compositions on her record label, Little Mystery Records and two vinyl releases on Newvelle Records. Her 2015 contemplative duo album with pianist Luke Howard, *Ten Sails*, has over 14 million streams on Spotify and Apple Music.

Noordhuis teaches at Berklee College of Music, Manhattan School of Music, and Hunter College and maintains a busy private studio, teaching in-person and Zoom lessons internationally. She is currently undertaking a PhD, studying the pedagogical influence and lineage of her late teacher, Laurie Frink.

Noordhuis has served on the ITG board of directors for one term, during which she has been invaluable in connecting women and non-binary jazz musicians with the ITG Conference. She served on both the Jazz and Conference Artist Committees for the 2021 ITG Conference and is currently a member of the ITG Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She also became the editor of the new “Inside Improvisation” column in the *ITG Journal* in October of 2022.

Statement of Platform: My involvement with ITG since 2010 has led to some incredible experiences in my career. I remember first experiencing the warmth and acceptance of the trumpet community when I was invited as a guest artist for the 2010 ITG Conference in Sydney. It provided the encouragement that I needed to keep playing and teaching in a field in which women and non-binary brass players were rarely seen. I have been fortunate to have some amazing developments in my career and now find myself in a position where I can help others achieve what they set out to do. It is exciting to see the changes in the landscape of performance and education where diversity is being prioritized. My aim is to continue working on having all members see themselves reflected in the ITG Journal and Conference. We are an incredible organization that supports and nurtures all trumpeters, and I am thrilled about the current vision of the board.

RAQUEL RODRIQUEZ SAMAYOA is currently associate professor of trumpet and co-director of the brass band at the University of North Texas.



As a member of the award-winning Seraph Brass, she frequently tours the US and abroad, performing concerts and engaging in educational outreach performances.

Dr. Samayoa is a Yamaha performing artist and a Denis Wick artist and clinician. Active in recent ITG Conferences, Raquel presented lecture-recitals in 2012 and 2016, performed in the New Works Recital in 2013; served as a finals judge for the ITG solo competitions in 2012, 2015 – 2017, and 2021; served as a judge for the taped round of the 2016 Ellsworth Smith solo competition and 2020 ITG solo competition; and served as a conference reporter for the *ITG Journal*. Raquel was also the editor of the “Trumpet Technology” column in the *ITG Journal* from 2013 to 2019. Raquel began the ITG video webpage and was its editor from 2011 to 2016. Raquel has also served on past ITG committees including the Commissions, Social Media, and Come-back Player committees. In addition to ITG service, Raquel has also served as a judge at NTC and was co-host of the International Women’s Brass Conference in 2014 and 2022.

Statement of Platform: I believe the ITG organization is the leading resource for trumpet professionals, students, and enthusiasts around the world. Providing resources to members worldwide requires constant assessment of ideas, staying current in new research and technology, and providing the membership with a high-quality journal, website, and engaging conference. I feel my strengths and passion encompass inclusion and diversity initiatives. I would like to contribute in continuing the great work ITG has done with their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs. As a past member of the commissions committee, I think commissioning new works is an important objective for ITG and support further work in this field. I have additionally been pleased to see new expansion plans geared towards young adults and the come-back player. I previously served on the Come-back Player committee and would like to see this group, as well as the youth day, continue to flourish with resources and opportunities at future conferences. Lastly, I believe ITG should continue to serve its membership with new initiatives and content in the *ITG Journal*, website and annual conferences. It would be an honor to serve on the ITG board to help the organization continue to be a leader in all of these initiatives.

Originally from Brazil, **NAIRAM SIMOES** enjoys a multifaceted international career as a performer, music educator, and clinician with a wealth of knowledge particularly in chamber and Brazilian music. He is the assistant professor of trumpet at Arkansas State University. Prior to his appointment at A-State, he taught trumpet at Lamar University and Texas A&M-Kingsville. As an active member of the International Trumpet Guild, he has attended many conferences both as a student and guest artist. Most recently, he presented warmup sessions, was the interim chair of the youth competitions, and brought two of his A-State trumpet ensembles to perform in the prelude series. Simoes has also established three ITG affiliate chapters across the US and Brazil. His ITG administrative duties have included serving on the Nominations Committee and Membership Committee. He is also the editor of the “Orchestral Spotlight” column for the *ITG Journal*. Simoes holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, a Master of Music degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Memphis.



Statement of Platform: ITG has been an example of camaraderie, knowledge, resources, and leadership in our community. I always looked up to ITG while trying to recreate the same ideals in all of my trumpet community-related events. As a member of ITG since 2010, I have attended many conferences and was able to visit with many about how we could make our organization even better. If elected, my four main goals will be: 1) to continue to contribute to ITG’s efforts to embrace diversity, inclusion, and civility as important values; 2) to expand global awareness of performers, educators, resources, and activities; 3) to work with community partners to identify known concerns that hinder new memberships, including societal, cultural, and economical concerns, among others; and 4) to focus on giving members a voice about how our organization continues to expand and develop into new horizons. I take pride in assessing, reflecting, and developing ways to further develop our trumpet community engagement. As a South American, I know the struggles of many to feel connected to the world of trumpeters, and I would like to make ITG a community that is within everyone’s reach. I would be honored to continue my service to ITG as a member of the board of directors and would greatly appreciate your support in this endeavor.

BRIAN WALKER is currently professor of trumpet at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. His students have been accepted into many undergraduate and graduate music programs and currently perform in orchestras and premier military groups throughout the United States.



As a performer, he has appeared with various groups in the DFW region and is a member of the Allen Philharmonic and Richardson Symphony Orchestras. As a soloist, Dr. Walker has given recitals throughout the United States and in Greece, France, China, and Brazil. He was featured as a soloist on the Tarleton State Wind Ensemble’s performance at Carnegie Hall in 2014, as well as that ensemble’s performance at the Texas Music Educator Association Conference in 2022.

Brian is active in the International Trumpet Guild, where he serves on the board of directors and on the Recording Projects and other ad-hoc committees as needed and chairs the Conference Golf Scramble Scholarship Fundraiser Committee. He also serves as an adjudicator for the National Trumpet Competition and ITG Competitions and is an artist for the Conn-Selmer Corporation (Bach).

Dr. Walker holds degrees from the University of North Texas (DMA), Florida State University (MM) and Southeastern Oklahoma State University (BM).

Statement of Platform: It has been one of my greatest joys to serve the ITG community as a representative on the board of directors. While much has been accomplished, I believe there is still much more to be done. Youth engagement and membership has increased; and expansion of competitions, an increase in resources for those attending conferences, and the creation of the ITG Golf Scramble fundraiser (for student scholarships) are all things I am proud of. However, these areas still require attention and care as we move forward. Equity and diversity among our membership and organization continue to be a priority of mine; as a white passing Indigenous American, I will continue to be an ally for those of all backgrounds. If elected for an additional term, I will continue to be available to the membership to address and advocate for their concerns as their representative. Additionally, I would continue to support and advocate for the development of our website, one of our best resources. It is time we update and renew this resource so that it remains useful to our current membership and helps us attract new members as they discover our wonderful trumpet community.

ROBERT WHITE is associate professor at Western Michigan University, where he has also served as an assistant director of the School of Music and is a member of the Western Brass Quintet. Before joining the faculty at WMU in 2014, Robert was second



trumpet with the Charlotte Symphony and a faculty member at the Eastern Music Festival. In recent years, he has performed with the Atlanta Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, and Detroit Symphony, among others. Robert is actively involved with the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, for whom he serves as an artistic advisor and advisor for the Resonate Project, a consortium of institutions, which has commissioned new works of chamber music from several notable African-American composers.

For the ITG, Dr. White was coordinator of the Orchestral Excerpts competition from 2012 to 2018, has performed on Festival of Trumpets and New Works Recital programs, and has contributed to the *ITG Journal*. The 2024 Ellsworth Smith Competition will be held at WMU, with Robert and colleague Scott Thornburg hosting. Dr. White has served WMU, its College of Fine Arts, and School of Music in several roles, including the Faculty Senate and WMU-AAUP. He also serves on the board of the Suzuki Academy of Kalamazoo.

Statement of Platform: I am honored to be considered for service to the ITG, a community which, years ago, made me aware of the myriad ways trumpeters around the world create, express, and interact. ITG showed me, through its publications and events, how musically versatile our instrument can be, along with a deep sense of its fundamental challenges. This has had a huge impact on my own varied career as a musician and teacher. I have felt fortunate to serve the organization so far in the ways mentioned in my bio, and humbly offer to contribute more.

I am hopeful that my own experiences and ideas might be of service to the ITG in various ways, including: 1) expanding our focus on new music, particularly in the realm of chamber music and with special regard to artists of internationally underrepresented communities, 2) helping students envision artistic career paths in all of the modes, genres, and methods that one can create music with the trumpet, and 3) ensuring that all of ITG's members around the world, whether students, professionals, or amateurs, can engage with the organization's publications, events, and other content in musically, scholarly, and socially meaningful ways.

REBECCA WILT is a world-renowned collaborative pianist and coach and has performed in collaboration with some of the world's greatest soloists: members of the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, and Los Angeles Philharmonic.



ony, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. She can be heard on recordings with trumpeters Huw Morgan, Jose Sibaja, and Tom Hooten.

Rebecca has been an integral part of the ITG community since 1993, the first year she served as a collaborative pianist. She still serves in this capacity today, 30 years later. Rebecca also served as co-host of the 2009 ITG in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as well as a consultant for the 2014 conference in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Ms. Wilt has been on the summer faculty for the Center for Advanced Musical Studies (Chosen Vale), where she works with some of the best trumpet soloists in the world, serves as the event director for the National Trumpet Competition, and is the director of Education and Community Outreach for the Master Players Chamber Music Series in Newark, Delaware.

Statement of Platform: I have been active in the ITG since 1993, when I first served as a collaborative pianist in Akron, Ohio. Throughout this time, I have enjoyed the incredible fortune to perform at most of the conferences over the last 30 years. Each year it feels like coming home. Some of my best friends and closest collegial relationships were formed through ITG, and this wonderful, supportive community is an integral part of my life.

One of my key areas of focus is membership trends, especially among the younger generations. I am motivated and committed to bringing new memberships to ITG. I am convinced that it is important to embrace change, open our hearts to new ideas, be inclusive to those from lesser represented cultures, and make ITG financially accessible for everyone. I would love to see the conferences elevate student-centric platforms and particularly offer more opportunities for participation and performance while attending. Students who are given these opportunities while in school will likely be energized by the camaraderie of the constituency and thus be encouraged to continue their membership, regardless of the role trumpet plays in their life.

Join me as together we imagine a thriving ITG for the 21st century.

The deadline to receive your ballot is April 15, 2023.

*Vote online or return only the enclosed
POSTCARD ballot.
Do NOT mail these biography sheets.*

**Voting online is quick and easy.
Go to the ITG Web Site
(www.trumpetguild.org),
and click "Vote online."**

**You will need to provide your name
and address to cast your vote this way.**

