

Novacane Biography

Group Bio

Long

Founded in 2014, the Novacane Quartet aims to elevate the clarinet quartet and its repertoire to an artistic level. The Novacane Quartet is committed to reinventing the quartet genre by commissioning new music and collaborating with other artists to stage interdisciplinary performances. While looking to the future, the group remains dedicated to great classical music from the past, balancing traditional stylistic practice with fresh interpretations. The group of energetic performers also continues its commitment to music education, inspiring young people in the community and advocating for a stronger generation of new musicians.

Recently named a semi-finalist in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition (2016) and winner of the Chicago Clarinet Ensemble International Competition (2014), the Novacane Quartet performs throughout the United States. The quartet presents traditional concerts as well as engaging community activities - events that intersect cultural outlets of music, drama, art, and architecture, creating an aesthetic experience unique to each performance.

Recent performances include concerts at the Cincinnati Art Museum's MUSE series - where the Novacane Quartet presented programs centered on works in the museum by Edward Hopper (Sun on Prospect Street) and Rufino Tamayo (Dancers over the Sea). These concerts were performed amidst the works of art that inspired the program - the music enhancing the visual art by bringing to light the artists' background, inspirations, and unique qualities of the paintings themselves. The Novacane Quartet works with artists of various disciplines to present community programs, like Impressions of Brown County: The Story of Frank Hohenberger. Impressions told the story of photo-journalist Frank Hohenberger (1876-1963), who documented the beginnings of Nashville, Indiana's Artist Colony in the early 20th century. With storytelling by Chicago-based Paul Whitehouse, photos by Hohenberger, and world-premiere performances by the Novacane Quartet and New Voices Opera, this interdisciplinary event captured the essence of the beginnings of Nashville, retelling the story of Hohenberger through photography, music, and spoken word at the Brown County Playhouse.

For more information, visit www.novacanequartet.com.

Short

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Member Bios

Staff Sergeant Erik Franklin is a member of the U.S. Army Field Band, the musical ambassadors of the Army. Prior to joining the Field Band in 2016, Erik held positions with the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra and the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic. He also served as interim Instructor of Woodwinds/Music History at the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. He is the founder of the award-winning Novacane Quartet. Every summer, he hosts the Indiana Clarinet Experience—a weeklong music camp in Brown County, Indiana.

A South Carolina native, Erik earned a BM in clarinet from Furman University and MM in clarinet from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, studying with Howard Klug.

Erik lives in Silver Spring, MD with his husband. When not traveling the country with the Field Band or the Novacane Quartet, he enjoys exploring museums and monuments in our nation's capital.

Hailing from Maryland, Keith Northover is currently a doctoral student and associate instructor at Indiana University, where he studies clarinet with Howard Klug and Eric Hoepflich. Before IU, he completed both his Master's and Bachelor's degrees in clarinet performance and music education from the University of Florida, where he studied with Professor Mitchell Estrin. While attending UF, Keith also served as adjunct instructor of clarinet at the College of Central Florida.

Recent career highlights include chamber music tours in Europe and Brazil, a solo performance of Rolla's Bassett Horn Concerto with the UF Orchestra and McAlister's Black Dog Rhapsody with the CCF Wind Ensemble. His research and performance interests include pursuing and advocating the use of the auxiliary clarinets. With years of service and commitment to providing music to the community, Keith is committed to encouraging and promoting music to the next generation.

Samantha Johnson is currently the Principal Clarinet of the Terre Haute Symphony (Indiana) where she performed W.A. Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A Major as a featured soloist in November 2014. She has also had the opportunity to perform with the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. In addition to orchestral performance, Samantha enjoys performing with The Novacane Quartet and as a member of the Duo Savvy with Kevyn Bailey. She is also a member of ROK, a group that performs opera in Indiana schools.

Samantha received her Master's degree in Clarinet Performance in 2013 from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, studying with Eli Eban. She earned her Bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) from Butler University in 2011, studying with Achille Rossi. While there, she performed Debussy's Première rhapsodie as the school's concerto competition winner. Samantha was inducted into the prestigious music fraternity, Pi Kappa Lambda, in 2010.

Kylie Stultz-Dessent received her graduate degree in clarinet performance at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music as a student of Jonathan Gunn in May 2014. In May 2012, Kylie graduated with High Honors from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music with a BM in clarinet performance, studying with James Campbell. She has attended international music festivals such as the Orford Summer Academy, Windfest, and the Banff Centre. In 2010, Kylie performed as a soloist with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in Columbus, Indiana. She has performed with many local symphonies in Indiana and Ohio.

In addition to playing, Kylie is a dedicated and passionate teacher. Her students have placed in All-State ensembles and received high ratings at solo festivals. She is currently the clarinet instructor at the Loveland Music Academy in Loveland, OH. Kylie enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.
