

Praised for his “soaring expression” and “impressive technical command” ([IDRS Journal 46, No 2](#)), bassoonist Joseph Swift enjoys a varied career as a performer, educator, and recording artist.

As a performer, Joseph has played with orchestras across the United States and Canada, in addition to chamber performances throughout the East Coast, Midwest and London, England. He currently serves as principal bassoon of the [Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes](#), and has performed with the South Bend Symphony, Ann Arbor Symphony, York Symphony Orchestra, Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and Napa Festival Orchestra among others. As one of three concerto competition winners with the Western Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Joseph performed Weber’s Bassoon Concerto in F Major accompanied by the ensemble. Further competition experience includes an honorable mention at the Plowman Competition; Wind division winner, composer award (given to the best performance of a work written by a University of Michigan alum), and second place overall in the University of Michigan Briggs Chamber Music Competition; and Silver Medalist in the Senior Wind Division at the 2018 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, all with the Vanguard Reed Quintet.

Joseph is currently the bassoon faculty at the [Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts](#), housing the acclaimed New Jersey Youth Symphony and Performing Arts School. Leading a robust and successful private studio, his students have performed in All State, various honors ensembles, and prominent chairs in their respective youth orchestras. He has performed as a mentor musician and served as woodwind coach with the youth programs across Michigan, New Jersey, Connecticut and New York. Students have gone on to achieve high honors for solo and chamber music competitions and pursue studies in music school as bassoon majors.

His debut solo album [Room to Breathe](#) was released in March 2023 receiving high acclaim across distinguished musical journals. Joseph’s playing was described as “articulate and commanding” by [The WholeNote Magazine](#) (Volume 28 Issue 6) and “Virtuosic” in the 2023 Spring Journal of the [National Association for Collegiate Wind and Percussion Instructors](#). His collaboration with pianist Calvin Hu shines across 5 world premieres for bassoon and piano ignited by the lived experiences of 5 composers of various personal and professional backgrounds. This project has been praised in reviews for its concept, execution, and the support gathered to make it possible including consortiums, grants, crowd funding, and business sponsorships.

He has also appeared on discography including Western Michigan University’s “Birds on a Wire” ensemble’s recording with Bridge Records: *Paul Lansky: Contemplating Weather*; University of Michigan’s Symphony Band recording on the Equilibrium label: *Poetics*, accompanying Hila Plitmann and Timothy McAllister; and Vanguard Reed Quintet’s inaugural album “Red Leaf Collection.”

Joseph has presented on the topic of [Vocal Pedagogy for Wind Players](#) through his lecture recital and is scheduled to present more in the coming academic year. He has attended the Pacific Region International Summer Music Academy (PRISMA), Orford Music Academy, Madeline Island Chamber Music, Dark in the Song New Music Festival, British Isles Music Festival (BIMF) and the Festival Napa Valley Blackburn Music Academy. He is an endorsed artist with [Key Leaves](#) and bassoon specialist at [Silverstein Works](#), helping to develop their Ambipoly synthetic bassoon reed.

Joseph holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Western Michigan University's Dalton School of Music, Master's Degrees in Bassoon Performance and Chamber Music from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in SUNY Stony Brook University's Music Department. His primary teachers include Robert Williams, Gwendolyn Rose, Jeffrey Lyman, and Frank Morelli.

Outside of music Joseph enjoys traveling, golfing, speed-solving Rubik's cubes, fitness, and spending time with his wife Cat and their dog Dunkin. Joseph's setup includes a Black Fox 660 with gold keys, Platinum Leitzinger MF1 bocal, and Medir cane reeds. A Michigan native, he is currently located in Somerset, New Jersey.