

★ THE AD ASTRA CLARINET QUARTET ★

THE CLARINET QUARTET FOR THE STATE OF KANSAS!

★ RACHELLE GOTER ★ TOD KERSTETTER

★ JEFF PELISCHEK ★ STEPHANIE ZELNICK

The Ad Astra Quartet was created in 2007 by Rachele Goter, Tod Kerstetter, Jeff Pelischek, and Stephanie Zelnick—four college clarinet professors from around the state of Kansas. The title of the group reflects the state motto of Kansas, and means “to the stars.” The group’s repertoire consists of a wide diversity of music, ranging from popular tunes arranged for clarinet quartet to contemporary music specifically written for this medium. Even though we recruit from the same body of students for our respective institutions, we feel that encouraging the advancement of clarinet playing in the state of Kansas is well worth our time. Moreover, we feel that the collective personality of our quartet creates a special energy that will make this group popular with audiences of all types!

Our recent engagements include an invited performance at the 2008 international convention of the International Clarinet Association, held in Kansas City. We also gave an invited performance at the 2009 KMEA In-Service Workshop in Wichita. In the spring of 2008, we performed recitals at Kansas State University, Hutchinson Community College, and the University of Arkansas.

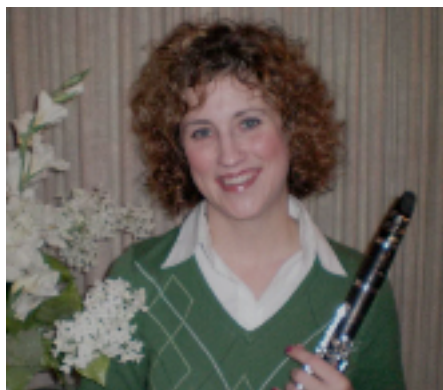
To book the Ad Astra Clarinet Quartet, contact Tod Kerstetter:

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Audio and video recordings, as well as photos suitable for printing, are available on our website:

www.ksu.edu/music/AdAstra



Rachele Goter is currently in her eighth year as clarinet instructor at **Friends University** in Wichita, KS where she teaches clarinet lessons, clarinet ensemble, and pedagogy courses. Ms. Goter is the clarinetist with the Friends Tower Woodwind Quintet and is principal clarinet in the Professional Wichita Wind Ensemble. Some recent performances include solo appearances with the Friends University Wind Ensemble at KMEA, the Friends University Jazz Ensemble, and the Friends University Orchestra. Rachele also freelances in the Wichita area having performed with the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, the Wichita Children’s Choir, the Knob Festival, and CityArts. An active and engaging clinician, Ms. Goter has given clinics at the Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium, KMEA, KBA, and for Wichita Public Schools. Rachele received her bachelor’s degree in music education from Wichita State University and taught band in the public schools for seven years. In 2000, she was named Kansas

Outstanding Young Band director and in 2007 was nominated and initiated into Phi Beta Mu Honorary Band Fraternity; that same year, she was awarded a Kansas Cultural Arts Grant. She currently resides in Wichita with her husband, Bret, and their three children, Jaden, Josie, and Luke.

Tod Kerstetter teaches clarinet, music theory and woodwind techniques on the faculty of **Kansas State University**. He is a graduate of Furman University (B.M.), Indiana University (M.M.), and The University of Georgia (D.M.A.). Dr. Kerstetter has performed on clarinet, E-flat clarinet, bass clarinet, and soprano, alto and tenor saxophone with professional ensembles including the American Wind Symphony, the Charleston (SC) Symphony, the Nashville Symphony, and the Savannah Symphony. He has performed as clarinet soloist with the KSU Orchestra, the KSU Symphony Band, the KSU Concert Jazz Ensemble, the Bowling Green Western Symphony, and the Nashville Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Kerstetter currently serves as the Kansas chair for the International Clarinet Association and the Kansas chair for NACWPI. As a recitalist or an orchestral musician, he has performed in Australia, Austria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, and Sweden. Dr. Kerstetter has performed in recital at three conventions of the International Clarinet Association.



Jeff Pelischek is currently in his 23rd year as Director of Bands and Woodwind Specialist at **Hutchinson Community College** in Hutchinson, Kansas where he teaches music theory, applied woodwind lessons, and directs the symphonic and pep bands. He grew up in Salina, Kansas and graduated from Fort Hays State University and the University of Michigan. He is a student of David Shifrin, W. James Jones, and Victor Sisk. Pelischek was honored as the Kansas Performer of the Year in 2000 by the Kansas Federation of Music Clubs. He is the former principal clarinetist in the Hutchinson Symphony, the Hutchinson Chamber Orchestra, the Kansas Winds, and the Kansas Wind Quintet. Pelischek is very active as a clarinet soloist, having given recent recitals with the Fairmount Quartet and at Kansas State University. He has been a featured soloist at the International Clarinet Association convention, the Kansas Music Educators Association Convention, the Kansas Bandmasters Association Convention, the Wichita Jazz Festival, and the Hutchinson Community College Jazz Festival.

Stephanie Zelnick joined the faculty of the **University of Kansas** in August 2007. She has performed as a soloist and orchestral clarinetist throughout the United States and Europe. Dr. Zelnick has received critical acclaim for her solo and orchestral performances. The San Francisco Classical Voice calls her playing "simply sublime," and the Boulder Daily Camera praises her "exquisite clarinet solos." She is currently serving as principal clarinet in the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, Central City Opera, and the Colorado Ballet and performs regularly with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Zelnick has enjoyed a long and diverse career as an orchestral musician. In the United States, she has held positions as principal clarinet in the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra as well as performing with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Pops, the Aspen Chamber and Festival Orchestras, and the Crested Butte Chamber Festival. In Europe she served as principal clarinetist of the Czech Chamber Philharmonic. She also appeared throughout Europe with numerous orchestras including the Prague Opera, the Johann Strauss Opera in Vienna, and the Frantiscbad Symphony Orchestra in the Czech Republic.

