

Bob Zagozda was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. Starting piano lessons at the age of 4-1/2, he added clarinet at the age of 8. At the age of 12, he had his first fulltime gig when he joined a polka band. The band soon transitioned into a wedding band that played all kinds of music, and he added saxophone at the age of 14, trumpet at age 16, and then trombone at age 17. After graduating from high school, Bob won a Regent's scholarship to the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Although he was an accounting major, Bob played sax in the jazz band during his entire time there. He also played 2 years in concert band on clarinet and French horn, and occasionally played bass clarinet in the orchestra. During college, Bob became a vocalist with the band, and also began to sub in many other bands. It was one of his subbing jobs that led him to join the Street Railway Company Dixieland band, then in the midst of their 20-year run at a local restaurant. Over the years, Bob picked up bass guitar, and almost all of the brass and woodwind instruments. He subs in all types of bands, and until the pandemic, had played for almost 20 years at Sacred Heart church. Bob also played and sang for 10 years in a 17-piece Monday night big band. And the polka band he first started in is now his own. Bob has been an auditor for a large public accounting firm, a bank Operations Officer, a medical practice and law firm administrator, a hospital Director of Finance, the Chief Operations Officer for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and he retired from Westside Community Schools after serving as their Chief Financial Officer for 10 years. He has served on the board of the Omaha Musicians' Association since 2005, and has been Vice-president since 2014. Bob is a contract financial analyst for the AFM, and since 2011 has completed over 80 projects to assist locals in understanding the financial health of their orchestras in order to help prepare them for bargaining. Bob and his wife Mary have 2 daughters and 5 grandkids.