

About Colin Murray

Contributed by Amanda Winfield
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Colin Murray's long fascination with bass trombone gear prompted one of his university friends (thanks John Hill) to dub him "Mr. Equipment". After graduating with a performance degree in bass trombone from McGill University in Montreal, Colin began to realize that it may be difficult to make a living as a freelance bass trombone player, and followed his intuition into the brass instrument repair business, working for two of Montreal's biggest music stores. He also ran his own business, "The Brass Exchange" which specialized in sales and repairs of high-quality brass instruments.

Colin moved to Toronto in 1995 and spent 8 years at Long & McQuade Musical Instruments flagship store where he served as the resident brass specialist and resource person (i.e. equipment geek) for the chain of (now) 37 stores. For the past three years, he was the eastern Canadian District Manager for Coast Music of Montreal, the Canadian distributors of Jupiter, Vandoren and for a while during his tenure, The Music Group (formerly Boosey & Hawkes) which included brands such as Buffet-Crampon, Besson, Keilwerth and Hofner.

Colin is active as a bass trombonist and has played with stars like Paul Anka,

Frank Sinatra Jr., Aretha Franklin, Tony Bennett, Burt Bacharach and John Pizzarelli, and has performed and recorded with numerous big bands, brass ensembles, brass bands and symphony and theatre orchestras. He changes mouthpieces every few weeks. Colin is also on the faculty of Humber College in Toronto, where he is a bad influence on a new generation of bass trombone players.

He has written articles for magazines such as "le Musicien Québécois" and info@longmcquade. Colin also appears occasionally as "Ask Mr. Equipment" on CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corp.) Radio Two's "Music and Company" with Tom Allen (another bass trombonist) explaining the weird things we musicians find interesting about the products. Feel free to send your questions to colin@mrequipment.ca.

Colin Murray's unique experience as a professional trombonist, repair technician, retailer and wholesaler and the contacts that go with it, offers the retailer, technician or manufacturer a distinct advantage in marketing their products or services. For more information, please email colin@mrequipment.ca