

# Bio: Wayne Alvarez

I started playing the trumpet in 5th grade after a music program was instituted in my elementary school. It was presented in a PTA meeting that my Dad insisted that I attend with him. After the formal meeting, my Dad asked me to go up to the stage and pick out an instrument. After looking them all over, I went directly to the baritone sax. My Dad looked at the price tag and immediately announced that I was to play the trumpet... and that is exactly how it happened!

I played the trumpet, guitar, and bass all the way through college in genres that included rock and roll dances, weddings, dinner music, and Tijuana Brass gigs in the Washington DC area. After college, I took a 22-year hiatus until I arrived in Austin Texas in 1994. There I was encouraged by a workmate to join the Jazz Band Workshop that, at that time, was held at St Edwards University. I could not play even one note on my horn but ... the big band music grabbed my soul. I have been playing ever since disguised as a trumpet imitator.

I have learned many insights on how to play from the many trained players I have had the privilege to play with over the years. Music is an incredible dimension of life!