**MIKE KORSON**

Mike Korson is currently a private saxophone instructor the McKinney Independent School District. He has taught saxophone at Cockrill, Dowell, and Scott Johnson Middle Schools, as well as McKinney North and McKinney Boyd High Schools for the past eight years. He most recently served as Adjunct Professor of Saxophone at Texas Christian University for the Fall 2021 semester during Professor Joe Eckert’s sabbatical. He has held a similar position at Richland College in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Korson completed graduate work at Texas Christian University with a master’s degree in saxophone performance where he was the lead alto saxophonist in the TCU Jazz Ensemble, soprano saxophonist in the graduate saxophone quartet, and performed with the TCU Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony. During his studies at TCU, Mr. Korson was a student of Professor Joe Eckert and served as the graduate assistant in jazz studies. He will begin studies toward the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Saxophone Performance at the University of North Texas in August 2022.

Mr. Korson made his orchestral debut in 2010 with the TCU Symphony Orchestra performing Alexandre Glazunov’s Concerto for Saxophone as the winner of their annual concerto competition. He appeared with the orchestra again in 2014, performing Henri Tomasi’s Concerto for Saxophone. As a freelance musician, he frequently performs as a jazz and classical saxophonist for musical groups such as the Dallas Winds, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Lone Star Wind Orchestra, and the Jordan Kahn Music Company. He has had the opportunity to perform at venues in Argentina, The Bahamas, Costa Rica, Cuba, New York, and many others.

As a studio teacher, Mr. Korson maintains a heavy private teaching schedule across the North Texas region. Under his instruction, many of his students have earned placement in the Texas All-Region, All-Area and All-State bands. In 2015, he formed and conducted the inaugural McKinney Saxophone Choir.

Mr. Korson is also an active music arranger and has prepared numerous works for small ensembles, wind bands, marching bands, and choirs across the North Texas Region.