

# David A. Wells

## ≈250-Word Bio

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Dr. David A. Wells is a bassoonist, teacher, and scholar who both explores the richness of his instrument's past and forges new paths for its future. He is Assistant Professor of Bassoon in the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University, a core member of the Carmel Bach Festival orchestra, and Executive Director of the non-profit Meg Quigley.

Wells focuses on historically-informed performance, playing repertoire and bassoons from the 17th to the early 20th centuries. He performs regularly with the Carmel Bach Festival, Sinfonia Spirituosa, and the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra, and has appeared with many other groups, including Opera Lafayette, Aston Magna Music Festival, American Bach Soloists, Philharmonie Austin, and Bach Charlotte. He is equally adept on the modern bassoon and contrabassoon, at home with standard orchestral/chamber/solo repertoire and demanding modern works involving extended techniques or electronics. Beyond this, he seeks to push the instrument's perceived genre boundaries, notably having spent nine years with Hot Club Faux Gitane, a Django Reinhardt-inspired swing sextet.

At Appalachian State, Wells leads a vibrant studio of bassoonists, coaches the Blazing Bassoons and other chamber groups, and teaches courses in music history. He is also active as a music scholar, with a particular interest in historical bassoonists and the place of bassoon within society. His primary teachers were Marc Vallon, Jeffrey Keesecker, and Jeffrey Lyman, with additional Baroque studies with Dominic Teresi.

When not playing or teaching, he can be found swimming, taking photographs, collecting records, and trying to keep up with his super-librarian/yogi wife, Veronica.