

Melanie Cottle

Class of 1968

Melanie Cottle was in the band and orchestra at WHS, where she played the French horn in high school, at the College of Wooster and Northwestern University.

Currently, Cottle teaches at Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, where she has taught for 45 years.

In her senior year in college at Northwestern University, she studied in Munich, Germany, and then graduated with a Bachelors of Music in music performance. After graduation, she began what she describes as a very active career teaching and performing professionally in Chicago.



Cottle taught at Northwestern for one year and served as an instructor at the High School Music Summer program at Northwestern University for 10 years. She then began her career at Wheaton College Conservatory of Music in 1974.

In 1983, Cottle started playing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and has traveled to Asia, Russia, Europe, South America and throughout the United States. Throughout her career, Cottle said she has played in numerous orchestras, including the orchestras of over 65 different Broadway shows.

Cottle has observed music therapy and has seen what can happen when people pick up an instrument. “I think it can be an incredibly calming, therapeutic, and rewarding experience for anyone,” Cottle said.

She wants students to know that “with hard work and focus, they can actually have a career in music.”

— Gina Van Lieu, *student interviewer*

“You must have private lessons from the best teacher you can find, piano lessons, perform every chance you get, listen to great music in your field, and learn to enjoy practicing. You’ll be doing a lot of it!”