John is an alumnus of Western University, where he studied Music Education. He studied clarinet with Jerome Summers, Robert Riesling and Robert Sheffield and conducting with Jerome Summers, Morihiro Okabe and William Gordon.

As the founding director of the Durham Chamber Orchestra, the Lakeridge Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, the former Music Director of the Clarington Concert Band, the former music director and conductor of the Northumberland Orchestra & Choir, and the current music director of the Parkdale Symphony Orchestra, Ottawa, John has worked in many different genres and with many local and international talents, including Mary Elizabeth Brown, Anastasia Rizikov, Adam Nelson, Tak Kwan, Patrick Headley, Quartetto Gelato, Molly Johnson and the Sultans of String. As a clarinettist John has performed with the Lavender Chamber Ensemble and as a saxophonist John is a member of the Electric City Swing Band, Peterborough.

He has dedicated more than 30 years as an educator working with high school students from around the world, sharing his passion for Music. John regularly conducted honour high school ensembles as part of the annual Conference of Independent Schools Music Festival (CISMF), held each spring at Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto. He continues to work with students, professionals, and amateur adult musicians who may have entered the arena for the first time or who have returned to something that they began as youngsters. John can also be heard on Northumberland 89.7 (Cobourg, Ontario) and CKLU 96.7 (Sudbury, Ontario), as host of Maestro’s Picks, an hour long radio program where he shares music of all styles.

 John is a member of the Ontario Music Educators Association (OMEA), where he has led workshops on 'best practices', creativity and composition, and technology in the Music classroom, across the province. He regularly works as a clinician and with ensembles preparing for festivals. John is an active member of the Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators Association.

johnrkraus.weebly.com