

I began violin at age 9 in the public schools. After a year I got my first private teacher and joined the California Youth Symphony, where I was a member for 10 years. At age 15, I joined my first “adult” orchestra, the Peninsula Symphony, where I stayed for 15 years.

By the age of 15 I was a violin coach with the California Youth Symphony, teaching the necessary fundamentals of bow technique, shifting, and rhythm. I taught for 4 seasons at both weekly rehearsals and summer camp.

I played throughout college while majoring in Biology at UC Berkeley. After graduation, I taught general science in a private science program in Northern California, eventually returning to teaching violin privately.

My performing experience includes 35 years of playing classical music in symphony orchestras, opera, chamber orchestras, and string quartets, as well as 20 concurrent years playing musical theater for such companies as Broadway By the Bay, Palo Alto Players, and Hillbarn Theater, as well as high school and middle school productions. I’ve participated in numerous recording projects including the Clarity recording of the Rite of Spring by Stravinsky, named a “Record to Die For” by Stereophile Magazine in 1997. I’ve played in almost every local venue, including the S.F. Opera House, and with “stars” including George Benson, Danny Kaye, Alicia Silverstone, and Victor Borge.

I consider the most influential step in my career as a violinist and teacher to be meeting Aaron Sten, student of the great Leopold Auer. He became my private teacher in 1971 and gave me the intense technical knowledge necessary to master the instrument and to educate others. Because of my early experience in the public schools, I am aware of the difficulty of struggling without the basics. For this reason, it is my intention to provide every student with the same independence, confidence, study habits, and problem solving strategies that I learned from my teacher. I encourage my students to get the most out of school programs and to join their local youth symphony for both the social and the educational benefits.