



## Core Teachers 2018-19

### **Miss Kristen Harris, Violin**



Kristen Harris received her Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Oregon, where she studied violin with Fritz Gearhart. She received her Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of South Carolina, where she studied with Dr. William Terwilliger and taught at the USC String Project under the direction of Dr. Gail Barnes. Kristen has been teaching Suzuki violin method since 2007, has taught private lessons and group classes in the Suzuki Strings at USC program since 2011, and has taught grades 6-8 orchestra for four years at Kelly Mill Middle School in Blythewood, SC. A multi-instrumentalist, Kristen is an active orchestral and chamber musician in the Southeast and performs and records regularly with musical groups of various genres ranging from old time, swing, and country, to bluegrass and rock. She is a member of the local gypsy jazz group Flat Out Strangers and the folk trio the Prairie Willows, and was the 2013 South Carolina State Fiddle Champion.

### **Dr. Samara Humbert-Hughes, Violin & Viola**



Dr. Humbert-Hughes currently serves as the Director and an Instructor of Violin and Viola for the Suzuki Academy of Columbia & USC (formerly called Suzuki Strings at USC). She is also actively involved with the Suzuki Association of South Carolina (SASC), having served as Treasurer for the Midlands (2014-2015), Chair for the Midlands (2015 – current), and Treasurer for the State (2015-current). In addition, Dr. Humbert-Hughes teaches pedagogy courses at the University of South Carolina's School of Music at USC as part of the Master of Music Degree in Violin/Viola Pedagogy.

Dr. Humbert-Hughes has been teaching since 1997. Recently she has served as a clinician for the Atlanta Suzuki Institute and Carolina Summer Music Conservatory at USC and as a viola instructor at Richland Northeast High School through the Palmetto Center for the Arts Program. Additionally, she has held teaching positions in England (Cambridge Suzuki Groups and at RAF Mildenhall), in Louisiana (Assistant Director and Instructor for the Centenary Suzuki School in Shreveport), in Oregon (Community Music Institute in Eugene), and in Arizona (Private Studio in Mesa). In addition to teaching, Dr. Humbert-Hughes has remained an active performer with groups such as the South Carolina Philharmonic, the Cambridge Philharmonic, the Shreveport Symphony, the Longview Symphony, the Texarkana Symphony, the South Arkansas Symphony, the Oregon Mozart Players and the Eugene Symphony.

Dr. Humbert-Hughes is a registered Suzuki teacher through the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) in Violin Books 1- 10 and in Viola Books 1-8. Her Suzuki Method mentors include: Shelley Rich, Ed Sprunger, Judy Bossuat, Cathy Lee, Roger Stieg, Gail Johansen, Carol Dallinger, Alice Joy Lewis, Susan Kemptor, Linda Case, Betsy Stuen-Walker, and Julia Hardie. She has published articles with the Suzuki Association of the Americas and the American String Teachers' Association. In 2015, Dr. Humbert-Hughes earned a Certificate of Achievement, Level 1, from the SAA.

In addition to her Master and Doctorate degrees in music, Dr. Humbert-Hughes also holds a Master's Degree in Business in Administration from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Arizona State University.

## **Mrs. Jessica Rafferty, Violin.**



Jessica received her Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance from Shenandoah Conservatory. Upon graduation, she was invited by Joanne Bath to study Suzuki Pedagogy at East Carolina University. Jessica completed her training and is registered in Every Child Can! through Suzuki Violin Book 10. She continues to pursue Suzuki training courses throughout the year.

Jessica lived in Charlotte, North Carolina from 2011-2016 and taught at the Community School of the Arts and Charlotte Academy of Music. While in Charlotte she made appearances with the Salisbury Symphony and the Union Symphony Orchestra. She currently holds the position of second violin sectional coach with the Union Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Jessica lives in Columbia with her husband, Adam Rafferty, and their cat, Dexter. They enjoy being able to play music together, going to concerts, and cooking. Outside of classical violin, Jessica has a passion for the electric violin and playing alternative styles. Jessica frequently plays on tour with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. She has worked with Mark Wood since 2011, assisting with Electrify Your Strings for middle and high school strings programs. Each summer she travels to Olathe, Kansas and works with world class faculty at the Mark Wood Rock Orchestra Festival. She is very passionate about violinists being true musicians and having the ability to play all styles of music. Jessica conducts her own Rock Orchestra Workshops and has worked with several middle schools.

Her goal is to create a love and passion for music in a positive and nurturing environment, all while having fun! She hopes to be an inspiration to her students.

## **Miss Emily Wait, Violin**



Ms. Emily Wait received her Bachelor degrees in Violin Performance and Graphic Design from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. In 2011 she moved to Columbia to complete a Master of Music degree with a focus in Violin Performance at the University of South Carolina. While working on her masters, she became intrigued by the educational philosophy of the Suzuki Method, and joined the faculty of Suzuki Strings at USC in 2012. Today, she holds certifications in the Suzuki Violin Method in Books 1-6 and continues to serve on faculty at Suzuki Strings at USC, where she teaches group classes and maintains a private studio. From 2013-2016, she also founded and was director of an elementary strings program at East Point Academy, a Chinese-immersion charter school located in West Columbia. In the summer of 2016 she attended the Retreat for Professional Violinists and Violists at Indiana University's Jacob's School of Music, an intensive String Academy Pedagogy Workshop incorporating the philosophies of Shinichi Suzuki, Paul Rolland, and Mimi Zweig. She also recently completed the Suzuki Principles in Action course, a supplementary course designed to help teachers incorporate Suzuki's principles effectively in their teaching.

In addition to her teaching schedule, Ms. Emily Wait continues to be an active performer throughout the South Carolina music scene. She performs regularly with the South Carolina Philharmonic, Augusta Symphony, Spartanburg Philharmonic, Aiken Symphony, and Long Bay Symphony orchestras. During her undergraduate years she participated in a string quartet, the Rock-it String Quartet, finalists in the University of Connecticut chamber music competition. She has collaborated with the USC Ballet program to perform the Debussy Violin Sonata for a dance production in 2015, and more recently, performing on electric and acoustic instruments in a recital with guitarist Devin Sherman in the spring of 2016. In her spare time she enjoys playing Appalachian Old-time fiddle music.

## Mrs. Karin Dawson -van Veen, Cello



Karin Dawson - van Veen was born in Delft, The Netherlands and studied cello at the Music Pedagogy Academy of Leeuwarden and the Conservatory of Groningen. Karin studied cello with Maarten Mostert, Elias Arizcuren, Jeroen den Herder and Jiri Prchal. She took masterclasses from Anner Bijlsma, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Milos Sadlo, and Christopher Bunting. During her studies, she was also a member of the National Youth Orchestra of The Netherlands where she performed in concert tours in Spain and Scotland.

She graduated with a degree in Cello Pedagogy, and was a co-founder of De Speeldoos (which is Dutch for The Music Box) where she gained 12 years experience as a cello and ensemble teacher. She has experience teaching children of all ages, as well as high school students and adults.

She moved with her husband and two children to South Carolina in 2010 due partially to her dedication to her children's education. The director of the unique school they came to South Carolina for is equally enthusiastic about the educational benefits of classical string instruments.

Her exposure to the Suzuki method was very limited until she was pleasantly surprised at how well her son responded to and learned from the method. She signed her daughter up for Suzuki lessons as well, and became very enthusiastic about it after seeing the positive results it generated. She started taking Suzuki teacher training in 2015 and holds certifications in the Suzuki Cello Method in Books 1-4 with plans for more certifications whenever time permits. Music using the Suzuki method is a large part of her now home-schooled children's education (cello and violin/viola).

## Mrs. Sarah Evanovich, Cello



Sarah Jackson Evanovich is the Assistant Director of the Suzuki Academy of Columbia. She holds a Master of Music degree from Roosevelt University where she studied performance and pedagogy with Dr. Tanya Carey, and a Bachelor of Music from the University of South Carolina in cello performance where she studied with Dr. Robert Jesselson. Mrs. Evanovich is a registered Suzuki teacher through the Suzuki Association of the Americas for cello books 1-10.

Sarah taught cello lessons and classes for several years at the Hyde Park Suzuki Institute and the MAGIC program in Chicago. Prior to those teaching positions she taught privately and in the USC String Project in Columbia, South Carolina. She is currently the president of the Suzuki Association of South Carolina, and was a past Treasurer of the SASC.

In addition to teaching, Sarah enjoys performing with the string quartet that she formed with her three sisters and also with her husband pianist/organist Joshua Evanovich. She was an associate member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and played in the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra. She was also a substitute in the South Carolina Philharmonic. In 2009, her quartet from Roosevelt University traveled to Quito, Ecuador to take part in the Mes Cultural Franz Liszt. She has participated in summer festivals including the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Killington Music Festival, Hot Springs Music Festival in Arkansas and the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts.

## Mr. Adam Rafferty, Cello



Adam Rafferty is a professional cellist with 28 years of playing experience. He began studying at the age of four in the Suzuki method. He received his Bachelors of Arts in public relations at the University of Kentucky with a minor in cello performance. He is currently a student at USC getting a second bachelor's degree in Music Education.

After performing and recording an album with Woodstock performer, Arlo Guthrie, Adam began venturing into styles such as bluegrass, jazz, rock, and folk. He has performed and worked with some of the biggest names in electric strings including Tracy Silverman of the Turtle Island String Quartet, Bert Ligon, and Mark Wood, founding violinist of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

Adam works with hundreds of middle and high school students every summer at the Mark Wood Rock Orchestra Camp. Adam discovered a love for sharing his knowledge of music with children and received Suzuki teacher training from Tanya Carey and is currently pursuing more training. Adam's teaching philosophy is "It is with great joy that I teach children to love, understand, and perform music."

## Mr. Steve Sloan, Classical Guitar



Steve Sloan is the guitar instructor for Suzuki Strings at USC and an adjunct professor of music at the University of South Carolina Aiken. He won first prize in the 2007 James Stroud Classical Guitar Competitions and was a third-prize winner in the 2010 Rosario Guitar Competition. Sloan has been heard in a variety of venues across the United States including Presbyterian College (SC), Nashville Public Library (TN), Oberlin Conservatory (OH), and others. In addition to his solo activities, Sloan often performs duos with his saxophonist wife, Mandy, and has served as a faculty member for the annual Southern Guitar Festival and Competition. Mr. Sloan has been teaching guitar since 2004.

Steve received his bachelor degree from the University of Akron's School of Music studying under Stephen Aron, and earned his Master of Music Degree from the University of South Carolina where he held a graduate teaching assistantship under Professor Christopher Berg.



## Neighborhood Teachers 2018-19

### **Mrs. Erika Cutler, Violin**



Erika Cutler has performed across the United States with ensembles such as the Indianapolis, Los Angeles and North Carolina Baroque Orchestras, Dayton Bach Society, Tempesta di Mare, El Mundo, and Chatham Baroque. She has been a featured soloist on the Music Sources concert series in Berkeley, CA, and performed with chamber groups in the Piccolo Spoleto, Bloomington, Sacramento, and Amherst Early Music Festivals. She is an active performer on both baroque and modern violin, and plays with Columbia Baroque, the South Carolina Philharmonic, and the Vista Ensemble in Columbia, SC. Ms. Cutler studied Violin Pedagogy at Indiana University in Bloomington where she taught at the IU String Academy, and has been running a private lesson studio in violin and piano since 2001.

Ms. Cutler earned her Bachelor's degree in Baroque Violin Performance from Indiana University in Bloomington, and completed a Master's degree in Violin Performance from Duquesne University.

### **Mr. Adam DePriest, Violin**



Adam DePriest is a conductor and violinist from Aiken, SC with a BM and two MM degrees from the University of South Carolina where he studied violin under William Terwilliger and Neil Casey and studied conducting under Donald Portnoy.

Making his solo debut on the violin at the age of 12 with the Augusta Symphony, Mr. DePriest has continued to be a sought-after performer who is well-versed with many experiences ranging from ensemble leadership to solo appearances to recording studio sessions. Additionally, Mr. DePriest began studying double bass at the age of 16 and made his solo double bass debut with the Augusta Symphony at 18 years old. Mr. DePriest regularly performs with his brothers as the DePriest Trio and actively performs with several regional professional orchestras including SC Philharmonic Orchestra and Augusta Symphony.

As an advocate for string education, Mr. DePriest teaches in Columbia and Aiken, SC as well as in Augusta, GA where he specializes as a Suzuki teacher for the Suzuki Strings of Augusta. Also in Augusta, he directs extracurricular Suzuki violin programs at Augusta Preparatory Day, School and Episcopal Day School. Mr. DePriest is currently an adjunct faculty member for the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at USC-Aiken where he teaches applied lessons as well as a string methods course. Making a local impact, Mr. DePriest has helped to found, facilitate, and launch the Aiken String Program—a program designed to bring much-needed string education to the greater Aiken community.

As a highly skilled and engaging conductor, Mr. DePriest carries an incredible background with him to the podium to invoke the best out of any ensemble that he directs. He consistently elevates these groups to achieve high levels of musicianship. Again making a local impact, Mr. DePriest is the founder and director of the Aiken Civic Orchestra and is the director of the Aiken Youth Orchestra.

### **Miss JulieAnne Bennett, Violin**



JulieAnne is currently a music student at the University of South Carolina studying in the Master of Music in Violin/Viola Pedagogy Program.