



Cheri Collins

Ms. Collins joins George Mason University's Music Department as an adjunct professor; teaching the Undergraduate String Methods classes and String Instrument Pedagogy and Literature classes.

Ms. Collins graduated from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, where she earned a Bachelor of Performance on Violin. While attending the Manhattan School of Music on full scholarship, she was one of two freshmen violinists chosen that year to study with the Russian-born violin professor, Raphael Bronstein. Ms. Collins has a Masters in Conducting from George Mason University, and is currently a Doctor of Arts candidate in Violin Performance at George Mason University. Her dissertation is focused on violin right arm technique; finger placement on the bow, and sound production. Ms. Collins conducts the American Youth String Ensemble, which embraces the youngest musicians of the four American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras under the musical direction of Luis Haza. The String Ensemble is made up of one hundred exceptionally talented second through eighth grade string students who rehearse once a week from September to May, and perform three concerts each season at VBODA music grade levels IV-VI. Ms. Collins is the String Coordinator and Director for the Chamber Music Connection Summer Camp, which is held the last week of June and part of George Mason University's Potomac Music Academy.

While attending the Manhattan School, Ms. Collins performed with the Manhattan Contemporary Chamber Symposium, which debuted new compositions at Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall. She was concertmaster for the Riverside Chamber Orchestra for two years, traveling with that orchestra to Rumania for an eight-week summer Concert series. She played two years with the São Paulo Symphony, in São Paulo, Brazil, and five years with the Florida Orchestra in Tampa, Florida (formally the Florida Gulf Coast Symphony) as first violinist. After relocating to Northern Virginia in 1984, she began a varied and successful freelance career. Some highlights of her freelance years include performances with the American Chamber Orchestra, Baltimore Opera, and National Symphony. She also performed as first violinist in the Canterbury String Quartet, and as a recording artist for National Geographic's Discovery series. Ms. Collins began teaching with Fairfax County Public Schools in 1989 as a string teacher. Her professional teaching experience includes Elementary, Middle and High School level classes. From 1993-2005, Ms. Collins' orchestras received "Superior" ratings in Virginia's District XII Orchestra Festivals. Ms. Collins' High School orchestra received the "1998 MegaFest Award" for the highest-scoring orchestra over nine weekends, in the 1998 Virginia Beach and Toronto MegaFest, sponsored by North America Music Festivals. In 1999 and 2005 her orchestra received recognition for "Outstanding Performance by a Middle School Orchestra" from the Virginia Music Educators Association, at their Association's In-Service Conference. Ms. Collins has guest conducted for James Madison University's Spring String Fling, Fairfax County Junior All-District XII Orchestra, and is an active string clinician and adjudicator for Fairfax County, Prince William County, and Montgomery County.