

Karen Hall

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Education

Azusa Pacific University – Bachelor of Arts in Music: Cello Performance

Teaching Experience

Pasadena Waldorf School - Strings Program Director and Early Strings Cello Specialist **2019 - Present**

- As the current Strings Program Director, I am responsible for orchestral conducting, concert programming and class curriculum and design for the Middle School Orchestra and Fifth Grade Strings Ensembles.
- Within the role of Cello Specialist, I start third grade beginner cello students on their instruments with postural and form-based focus as well as musical instruction through ear-training methods from the Suzuki curriculum.
- Through my instruction, all fourth grade students transition to note-reading and are introduced to orchestral material including multi-part harmony, differing rhythmic figures and counting, and the role of the conductor.

Private Cello Instructor - Greater Los Angeles and Orange County areas **2007 - Present**

- I maintain a busy private studio teaching students of all ages. I have started beginners as young as age three and worked with older students are interested in cello playing as a hobby in retirement.
- My primary focuses are on form and theory-based curriculums that enable a student to pursue music to whatever extent they desire. All students are coached in entering a healthy habit loop for home practice and are trained in comprehensive listening skills where we together identify what is going well followed by where improvements can be made.

Pasadena Youth Orchestra - Greater Pasadena area **2021 - Present**

- Sit in on String Orchestra Ensemble's rehearsals offering comments, taking notes, assisting with tuning and occasionally offering playing support in rehearsals.
- Coach cello sectionals with String Orchestra and Prelude ensembles answering students questions, giving support and attention to sections requested by the ensemble conductors and aiding students in their understanding and ability to execute assigned repertoire as an individual and team.
- Coaching in Sierra Madre Middle School classes. Primary work with cello students but occasionally string sectionals or violins as requested and needed.

Pacific Symphony's Strings for Generations - Cello Section Coach **2020 Fall/Winter**

- Lead a group of cellists through Zoom-based sectionals to successfully participate in a remote concert.
- Directed student attention and progress toward accurate counting, playing to a click-track, tuning to a drone, and how to maintain a sense of community and camaraderie through focused and comprehensive listening.

Young Musician's Foundation - Class Instrumental and Early Childhood General Music **2012 - 2019**

- Programmed class instruction for group violin and group cello covering grades three to eight and multi-grade sectionals. All curriculum was focused on theory-based and learning and followed guidelines set forth by the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) standards in the state of California.
- Designed and taught early childhood general music in grades TK-First at Para Los Niños Gratts Charter School. All classes were designed in line with VAPA standards for the state of California. Special attention was given to listening skills, pitch-matching, and social-emotional play in music.

David S. Wise Elementary School - Beginning Orchestra Conductor and Cello Instructor **2014 - 2016**

- Arranged and programed twice annual ensemble concerts for students in second through fourth grade on violin, cello and piano.
- Introduced students to the basics of orchestral playing including music reading, counting, and harmony.
- Tutored individual cello students in the fundamentals of playing including form and music theory.

Professional Experience

Orchestral

Riverside Symphony, San Bernadino Symphony, Lake Avenue Chamber Orchestra, Santa Monica Orchestra, Downey Symphony Orchestra

Section Cellist

Azusa Pacific University Symphony Orchestra

Co-principal and Section Cellist

Pit

Musical Theater

Kiss Me Kate, Into the Woods, Beauty And the Beast, Meet Me In St. Louis, Peter Pan, Sweeney Todd (Book 1 & 2), Spelling Bee, Hello Dolly, The Secret Garden, The Light In the Piazza, Annie, Evita, Anne of Green Gables, South Pacific (Book 1 & 2), Little Women, The Last Five Years (Book 1), Seussical, Brigadoon, Mary Poppins, A Little Night Music, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, West Side Story

Opera

The Magic Flute, Suor Angelica, Cosi Fan Tutti, Amahl And the Night Visitors, Lucia de Lammermoor

Ballet

The Nutcracker

TV and Film - On Camera

Apple iPhone 5 Commercial “Orchestra”, Glee (Recurring Featured), House of Lies, Truth Be Told, Modern Family, The Mindy Project, American Music Awards, Pop Star: Never Stop Never Stopping, The Runaways, WestPac Bank Commercial

Stage

Composer/Cellist/Muse for “An Illiad” at A Noise Within Theater, Site Specific orchestration for Heidi Duckler Dance Company, JETZO improv duo - live scoring , The Murge clowning troupe - live scoring, sketch, improv and clown shows and training at Groundlings, Idiot Workshop, iO West, and Second City.

Multi-Media

Owner, podcast host, and writer of Musician Health Resource.

Solo Show

Delusions and Grandeur - A solo Cello Recital meets a Clown Show. Writer and Performer.

Camden Fringe - 2022

Vancouver Fringe - 2022 (Six-show sold-out run.)

Artists Worked With and Notable Performances

Lauv, Red Dead Redemption Live Score at Redbull Music Festival, Mannheim Steamroller, American Music Awards with Shawn Mendes, Steven Stucky, Anthony Kerns, Maple Story Live Score, Geoff Emerick, Chef's Table, Hollywood Bowl with Pete Tong, Yoshiki, SXSW Music Festival, Marc Anthony, Mark Greenberg, Robert DeLong, Tommy Walker, Los Tigres del Norte, J.P. Hoe, Governor's Prayer Breakfast – Hawaii, Lucy Schwartz, Frank Ocean, Bella Electric Strings, Eliza Rickman, Wax, Al Denson, Leila Farouhah, Bible Experience Live, Seal, The Lonely Island, Rana Mansour, Gabriel Ciampi, Tim Myers, Las Vegas Sesquicentennial, Jherik Bischoff

Awards, Achievements and Master Classes

Professional Development Training in Early Childhood Music Education with Dr. Victoria Stevens

Soloist with Azusa Pacific Symphony Orchestra playing the Kol Nidre by Max Bruch

United States West Coast premier of Jeu de Timbres by Steven Stucky (principal cello)

United States premier of Esa-Pekka Salonen's Stockholm Diary (co-principal cello)

Continuing Education

Dell'Arte International three-week summer intensive

Improv and Clown courses (the Clown School, Movement Theater West, Idiot Workshop, Second City, Groundlings, and more.)

Cello Lessons with Marek Szpakiewicz