

DAWSON WHITE

Violist/Teacher/Mentor/Entrepreneur

"I enable positive change in audiences/students and develop authentic sound and creative business mindsets for artists."

Education

University of North Texas, Doctor of Musical Arts Expected 2022

Viola Performance and Music Entrepreneurship

Lessons with Dr. Susan Dubois & Scott Tixier

Coursework: Applied Lessons, Jazz Viola, The Musical Entrepreneur, String Pedagogy, Performing Arts Management Practicum, Marketing for Musicians, Music History, Music Theory

Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, Master of Music 2010-2012

Viola Performance

Lessons with Ivo van der Werff

Coursework: Applied Lessons, Symphony and Chamber Orchestra, Orchestral Excerpts, Chamber Music, Music for Film, Business of Music, Career Skills, Independent Study with Joan DerHovsepian, Music Theory, Music History

Baylor University, Bachelor of Music, Viola Performance 2006-2010

Lessons with Dr. Kathryn Steely

Coursework: Orchestra, Applied Lessons, Orchestral Excerpts, Chamber Music, Conducting, German, Music Theory, Music History

Intensive summer sessions with Helen Callus, currently Professor of Viola, Northwestern Univ.
2008, 2009, 2011

Performance Experience

Houston Grand Opera 2016-current

- rotating section viola
- Assistant Principal in Wagner Götterdämmerung
- Onstage banda in Handel Julius Cesare

Houston Ballet	2014-current
- 3rd chair viola (2019-current)	
- 5th chair viola (2014-2019)	
- Principal Viola in Peer Gynt w/solo, Nutcracker (2019-2020)	
- Assistant Principal in Mayerling, Don Quixote, Sleeping Beauty (2017-2020)	
Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra (Los Angeles)	2017-current
- Rotating Principal and violist in chamber ensembles	
- Premieres in Walt Disney Hall	
San Antonio Symphony, substitute viola	2018-current
- offered one year position for 2018-2019 season	
Fidelis Quartet with members of Houston Symphony	2017-current
- guest violist by invitation of Rodica Gonzalez	
Aperio Music of the Americas Ensemble (Houston)	2017-current
- Rotating Principal and violist in chamber ensembles	
Musiqqa Contemporary Ensemble (Houston)	2016-current
East Texas Symphony Orchestra, substitute	2018-current
Opera in the Heights	2013-current
- substitute Principal Viola (2020)	
- contracted Assistant Principal Viola (2013-2014)	
Houston Latin American Philharmonic, rotating Principal	2013-2019
Kolonneh String Quartet, Sam Houston State University Faculty Quartet	2014-2017
Axiom String Quartet, Quartet in Residence, Co-founder University of St. Thomas	2012-2014
Cypress Symphony, Principal Viola, Co-founder	2012-2015
Austin Symphony, substitute	2008-2014
Symphony of Southeast Texas, section viola	2012-2013
Waco Symphony, section viola	2007-2010
Baylor Symphony Orchestra, Soloist, Strauss Don Quixote	2010
Dallas Chamber Orchestra, substitute viola	2009
YouTube Symphony Orchestra, Associate Principal Viola	2009
- Conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas in Carnegie Hall, coachings with Roberto Diaz	
National Finalist, Music Teachers National Association Competition, Toronto	2007
Texas Music Teachers Association Conference	2007
- Solo Viola with orchestra, Hummel Fantasie	

Teaching Experience

University of St. Thomas - Houston, Adjunct Professor of Viola	2013-current
- Undergraduate & Graduate music courses including Applied Viola, Chamber Music, Viola Pedagogy, Special Topics: The Entrepreneurial Musician, Introduction to Music	
- Viola studio recruitment, largest viola studio in the history of UST	
- Introduction to Music - face-to-face, hybrid and online courses. Grew the course to become the university's most popular fine arts course and first online music course offered	
- Organized masterclass series with artists and pedagogues	

- Organized and negotiated a study abroad program for UST students to attend Casalmaggiore International Music Festival in Italy (2020)
- Music Preparatory School Faculty (2012-current)

Sam Houston State University, Adjunct Professor of Viola and Chamber Music 2013-2017

- Undergraduate & Graduate music courses including Applied Viola, Chamber Music, Viola Orchestral Repertoire
- Participation in faculty recitals
- Grew the viola studio by two hundred percent
- Member of the Kolonneh String Quartet, Faculty Quartet in Residence, semester concerts, outreach performances and donor events
- Coordinate yearly viola masterclass series with artists and pedagogues
- Implementation of an orchestral forum component, first string course of its kind at SHSU
- Pedagogy Workshop for working music educators, Viola specialist 2018-2019

Lone Star College, Adjunct Professor of Strings 2012-2013

- Applied Violin and Viola lessons
- Music Fundamentals (music theory course for non-majors)
- Participation in faculty recitals

Rice University, Viola Instructor 2011

- Weekly lessons for non-majors culminating in a jury

Private Instructor and Clinician 2004-current

- Weekly lessons for students of various stages of development. Beginner, middle school, high school and adult amateurs
- Lessons in Viola, Violin and fiddle
- Sectionals and All-Region/State workshops
- Lessons taught through Fort Bend ISD, Klein ISD, Cy-Fair ISD, Katy ISD, Waco ISD, Hewitt ISD and Charlotte Floyd Music Studio (Tyler, TX)

Student Accomplishments

- Acceptance to Juilliard, Manhattan School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, Oberlin Conservatory, Royal College of Music (London), MIT, McGill, Baylor University, UT Austin, University of Oregon, DePaul University, and High School for the Performing & Visual Arts (Houston)

- Professional engagements with Symphony of Southeast Texas, Brazos Valley Symphony, Brazosport Symphony, Houston Civic Symphony, Rogue Valley Symphony
- Teaching in Cy-Fair ISD, Conroe ISD, College Station ISD, Fort Bend ISD, Spring ISD, Spring Branch ISD, and Katy ISD
- Acceptance to Heifetz, Tanglewood Institute, Aspen Music Festival, Domaine Forget, Sewanee, American Festival of the Arts, and Texas Music Festival.
- Participation in Texas All-State orchestras, All-Region orchestras, State Solo & Ensemble, Houston Youth Symphony, Virtuosi of Houston Chamber Orchestra, Young Artist Award etc.

Entrepreneurial Projects & Organizational Leadership

- Houston Viola Society, Co-Founder, Director of Viola Day, Board member 2017-current
- spearheaded and coordinated all aspects of two different Viola Days at the University of St. Thomas, garnering attendance of over 150 violists from Central Texas to Louisiana.
 - Served as Co-Founder of the organization, recruited a board, attained 501(c)3 non-profit status and led marketing, membership and artistic programming initiatives.
 - Past Vice President

- Houston Ballet & Houston Grand Opera Committees 2016-current
- Union orchestra representative for HGO Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2020) Important tasks include seeking company and audience identity, representing orchestra needs, drafting core values, and the formation of a diversity statement.
 - Served on multiple HB and HGO orchestra committees and audition committees through peer voting procedure.

- University of St. Thomas, Coordinator and Curriculum Developer 2013-current
- Created numerous programming to facilitate community, belonging and high level artistic experience.
 - Organized a study abroad experience for music students to attend Casalmaggiore Festival. (2020)
 - Developed curriculum and course standards of UST's new proposed Bachelor of Music - Instrumental Studies Concentration, by invitation of Music Chair.
 - Programmed the first string recruiting event for the university, UST State/Region Workshop for high schoolers. (2019)
 - Created and organized ChamberFest, a summer program devoted to high school chamber music with weekly coaching and a final concert. (2018-2019)

- Cypress Symphony, Principal Viola, Co-founder, Director of Digital Media 2012-2015
- helped to develop a concert series in line with the mission statement and goals of the orchestra. Organized meetings, researched all aspects of concert planning and funding acquisition and utilization, developed concert programs and assisted in acquiring ad sponsorships, acted as liaison to conductors, staff, musicians and personnel manager to assure professional business goals were obtained.

- developed the organizations website from concept to SEO using Squarespace and Wix formats. Duties included design, embedding videos/audio, Google Analytics tracking, content creation, social media integration as well as designing the monthly donor newsletter.
- helped direct the organization to 501(c)3 non-profit status and incorporation.
- Resulted in concerts with over 750 in attendance in our inaugural year.

Axiom String Quartet 2012-2014

- developed concert series at University of St. Thomas and throughout Houston and Texas, marketing of the quartet, programmed outreach and children's concerts, and obtained 501(c)3 non-profit status with the election of a board.

New Art/New Music, Rice University 2011-2012

- coordinated all aspects of the concert series including: commission of composers to create works based on site-specific art installations at Rice Gallery, initiation of publicity campaign, development of a website, instituted coordination and collaboration between school departments, obtained Sviatoslav Richter Grant for Music Outreach and coordination of graphic design of web/flyer materials. Resulted in 400% concert attendance improvement, use of website content for Rice Gallery website, and trademarking the New Art/New Music name by the museum

Community Engagement

University of St. Thomas 2013-current

- Implemented UST's first string recruiting event, UST State & Region Workshop (2019)
- Organized ChamberFest 2018 & 2019, intensive summer chamber music festival for high school and college students with weekly coachings and final performance.
- Co-organized the String Institute summer festival (2013)

Cabrillo Contemporary Music Festival 2018-current

- children's concerts
- string quartet presentation and instrument introduction for children

Houston Viola Society 2017-current

- Two Viola Days, each reaching 150+ violists from Central Texas to Louisiana
- Masterclasses, educational workshops and classes

Houston Grand Opera 2016-current

- Children's concerts and High School Night
- Miller Outdoor Theater free concerts

Houston Ballet 2014-current

- Children's concerts and High School Night
- Miller Outdoor Theater and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion free concerts
- Houston Methodist Hospital - Nutcracker

Symphony of Southeast Texas 2012-2013

- Involved in various educational initiatives including side-by-side concerts

Texas Music Festival 2012

- Performances at nursing homes and the Texas Medical Center

Adjudication

UIL Texas State Solo and Ensemble Viola Adjudicator, UT Austin	2017-current
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- judging violas Texas' largest high school solo and ensemble event- over 100 violists heard each year from across the state- distribution of scores, outstanding soloist recognition and comments for each student- currently the youngest adjudicator	
Solo and Ensemble String Judge, Klein ISD	2017-2019
Houston Civic Symphony Young Artist Competition	2016
MTNA South Central Division Competition - Strings, University of Houston	2016
High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Concerto Competition, Houston	2013
Mortan Ranch High School Music Scholarship Competition, Katy ISD	2013

Summer Festivals - Performer/Teacher

Musiktage am Rhein, Viola Faculty and Chamber Coach	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- international recruitment of viola studio- lessons and chamber coachings in Neuwied - Engers am Rhein, Germany	
Casalmaggiore International Music Festival, Viola Faculty and Chamber Coach	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- international recruitment of viola studio- lessons and chamber coachings in Casalmaggiore, Italy- cancelled due to COVID-19	
Cabrillo Contemporary Music Festival, Section Viola, Festival Orchestra	2018-current
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- two week summer season consisting of over 20 premieres- Rotating Assistant Principal Viola	
Texas All-State Camp, Viola Artist Faculty	2013-current
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- rigorous sessions in All-Region and All-State etudes and excerpts for advanced high school players- Mock Audition Adjudication	

Summer Festivals - Participant

Mimir Chamber Music Festival, Axiom Quartet	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- coachings with Kirsten Doctor (Cavani Quartet), Frank Huang (Concertmaster NY Phil)- public concerts and masterclasses at Texas Christian University	
Texas Music Festival, Orchestra Fellow, rotating Principal	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Principal Viola, Beethoven 9th Symphony- lessons with Wayne Brooks, Ivo van der Werff, James Dunham and Rita Porfiris- multiple chamber groups	
Montecito International Music Festival	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- lessons with Helen Callus- multiple chamber groups- solo performances including Penderecki Cadenza	
Karen Tuttle Viola Workshop, Oberlin Conservatory	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- masterclasses with Susan Dubois, Jeffrey Irvine, Michelle LaCourse and Karen Ritscher	

Astoria Music Festival, Young Artist, Assistant Principal Viola	2010
- Pacific NW premiere of Berg's Wozzeck	
- performed side-by-side with members of Oregon Symphony	
Aspen Music Festival and School	2008
- two opera performances as well AACA conducting orchestra	
- lessons with Masao Kawasaki and Catherine Carrol	
Austrian American Mozart Academy	2007
- Assistant Principal Viola and Young Artist	
- Performances of Mozart's Figaro as part of Salzburg Festival	

Publications

- Entrepreneurship, Studio Blog - Rice University, American Viola Society 2013
- YouTube Symphony Summit, American Viola Society 2009

Recordings

Hansel and Gretel. Houston Grand Opera, Patrick Summers; 2021. (To be released Oct. 2021 online)

O'Regan: The Phoenix (Live). Houston Grand Opera, Patrick Summers; Pentatone Music; 2020.

Rise with Him. Peace; Story Worship; 2019.

Already Won. Already Won; Essen Hiort; Grind Records; 2017.

One More Kiss. Blänk; 2017.

A Sign of Life. Signs of Life; Jonas Lundvall; Rexus Records; 2017.

Complete Works of Gustavo Navarre. SHSU Symphony Orchestra, Kolonneh String Quartet; Cantys Label, 2014.

Building Bridges. The Willy Collins Band, Axiom Quartet; CD Baby Label; 2013.

Goodbye. Girl Friday, Axiom Quartet. Girl Friday Label, 2013.

Awards and Scholarships

Mimir Festival Scholarship	2013
Full Tuition Scholarship, Rice University	2010-2012
Sviatoslav Richter Grant for Music Outreach	2011
Astoria Music Festival Scholarship	2010
Donald I. Moore for Outstanding Performance, Baylor University	2010
Dean's Award for Outstanding Musical Performance, Baylor University	2009
Aspen Music Festival Scholarship	2008
Austrian American Mozart Festival Scholarship	2007
Full Tuition Scholarship, Baylor University	2006-2010
Music Merit Scholarship, Tyler, TX	2006

Professional Affiliations

American Federation of Musicians, Local 65-699 (Houston, TX)

American Viola Society

College Music Society

Houston Viola Society

Network of Music Career Development Officers