

Alex Gonzalez

University of Colorado Boulder - Assistant Professor of Violin
Sphinx Virtuosi - Concertmaster
The Knights - Core Member

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Curriculum Vitae

Education

- Carnegie Mellon University** | Pittsburgh, PA 2015
Advanced Music Studies Certificate
- Primary Studies with Cyrus Forough
- Rice University** | Houston, TX 2012-2014
Master of Music in Violin Performance
- Primary studies with Paul Kantor
 - Chamber music studies with Norman Fischer, James Dunham, and Ivo Van der Werff
 - Contemporary music through collaborations with Gunther Schuller and William Bolcom
- Eastman School of Music** | Rochester, NY 2008-2012
Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance
- Primary studies with Oleh Krysa
 - Chamber music studies with Carol Rodland, Mimi Hwang, Enrico Elisi, and the Ying Quartet
 - Historical performance practice with Christel Thielmann
- Nevada School of the Arts** | Las Vegas, NV 2004-2008
Pre-College Diploma
- Primary studies with Shakeh Ghoukasian

Further Enrichment

- Future of Music Faculty Fellowship** | Cleveland, OH
Hosted by the Cleveland Institute of Music, this initiative is meant to elevate Black and Latinx educators within the music academy.
- Aspen Music Festival and School** | Aspen, CO
- Primary studies with Paul Kantor
 - Chamber music studies with Darrett Adkins
- Pacific Music Festival** | Sapporo, Japan
- Orchestral studies under Valery Gergiev and Jun Märkl
 - Chamber music studies with Rainer Küchl and Daniel Froschauer
- Sarasota Music Festival** | Sarasota, FL
- Masterclasses with Pamela Frank and Timothy Lees
 - Chamber Music studies with Steven Doane and Carol Wincenc

Interlochen Arts Camp | Interlochen, MI

- Primary studies with Javier Pinell
- Chamber music studies with Sharan Leventhal

Britten-Pears Young Artist Program | Aldeburgh, England

- Orchestral studies with Oliver Knussen

Bowdoin International Music Festival | Bowdoin, ME

- Primary studies with Cyrus Forough

Teaching Experience

University of Colorado Boulder - College of Music | Boulder, CO 2022-Present

Assistant Professor of Violin

- Teach, recruit, and maintain a studio of roughly sixteen violin students of both undergraduate (BM Performance, BM Education and BA) and graduate level (MM, AD, DMA)
- Coach chamber music
- Lead a weekly studio class
- Advise masters and doctoral candidates in my studio and across the College of Music
- Serve on various committees that serve the College of Music at large
- Serve as Curriculum Coordinator and Liaison and faculty for the “Sphinx Performance Academy at CU Boulder” summer strings program

Sphinx Performance Academy at the Juilliard School | New York, NY 2022-Present

Faculty

- Taught private violin lessons
- Led studio classes
- Coach chamber music

New World Symphony | Miami Beach, FL 2023

Guest Faculty

- Taught private lessons to Violin Fellows
- Played side-by-side in orchestra rehearsals
- Spoke on a panel about careers in music

University of Denver - Lamont School of Music | Denver, CO 2023

Masterclass

- Led a solo violin masterclass for the studio of Igor Pikayzen

University of Oregon | Eugene, OR 2022

Masterclass

- Led both a solo violin and chamber music masterclass at the School of Music

Cleveland Institute of Music | Cleveland, OH 2022

Masterclass

- Led a chamber music masterclass alongside fellow principals of the Sphinx Virtuosi

Instituto Baccarelli Sao Paulo, Brazil	2022
Masterclass	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led a solo violin masterclass 	
Colburn School - Music Academy Los Angeles, CA	2021
Workshop leader	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Played alongside and coached the Colburn Academy Virtuosi 	
North Carolina School of the Arts Winston-Salem, NC	2019
Masterclass	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led a masterclass for the studio of Ida Bieler 	
Montclair State University Montclair, NJ	2019
Masterclass	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led a masterclass for the combined violin studios at the School of Music 	
Atlanta Symphony Talent Development Program Atlanta, GA	2019
Masterclass	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led a virtual masterclass for the violin students of the program 	
Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra Program (NYO2) New York, NY	2018
Faculty	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught private lessons • Coached student chamber music groups • Coached daily orchestra rehearsals 	
Iberacademy - Academia Filarmónica Iberoamericana Medellín, Colombia	2018
Guest Faculty	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught private lessons • Coached chamber music groups • Coached daily orchestra rehearsals • Performed with the students in their final concert 	

Honors and Awards

Achievement Award Sphinx Competition	2013
<i>Special recognition awarded to one semi-finalist that exhibits outstanding artistry and prowess.</i>	
Starling Foundation Scholarship Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation	2013
<i>Highly competitive award limited to the classical violin discipline, covering full tuition costs at your institution of study.</i>	
John Celentano Award for Excellence in Chamber Music Eastman School of Music	2012
<i>Award honoring graduating students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the study and performance of chamber music.</i>	
Emerson Scholarship Interlochen Center for the Arts	2007
<i>Awarded each year to one musician per state, this scholarship offers full tuition coverage to study at the Interlochen Arts Camp.</i>	

Solo Experience

- Newport Classical Music Festival** | Newport, RI 2023
Soloist
- Featured soloist with The Knights alongside violinist Colin Jacobsen
 - Under the direction of Eric Jacobsen
- Boulder Philharmonic** | Boulder, CO 2023
Soloist
- Featured soloist in Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5
 - Under the direction of Michael Buttermann
- Orlando Symphony Orchestra** | Orlando, FL 2022
Soloist
- Featured soloist in Vivaldi's Four Seasons
 - Under the direction of Colin Jacobsen
- Caramoor Center for Music and Arts** | Katonah, NY 2021
Soloist
- Featured with The Knights and Colin Jacobsen
 - Under the direction of Eric Jacobsen
- Carnegie Hall Citywide - Bryant Park** | New York, NY 2021
Soloist
- Featured with The Knights and Colin Jacobsen
 - Under the direction of Eric Jacobsen
- National Arts Club** | New York, NY 2021
Solo Recital (Virtual)
- New Haven Symphony Orchestra** | New Haven, CT 2019
Soloist
- Featured with the Catalyst Quartet
 - Under the direction of Alasdair Neale

Chamber Music Experience

- The Knights** | Brooklyn, NY 2020-Present
Core member
- The Knights are a collective of adventurous musicians dedicated to transforming the orchestral experience and eliminating barriers between the audience and music.*
- Core member of the ensemble
 - Member of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
 - Recent performances and tours include: Carnegie Hall Residency (2022-2023 season), Tanglewood Music Festival, Konzerthaus Berlin, and the Ravinia Festival.
 - 2022 Grammy Nomination for album: "Beethoven & Brahms: The Violin Concertos" with Gil Shaham
 - Recent collaborations with renowned artists and composers including Edgar Meyer, Chris Thile, Gil Shaham, Avi Avital, and Anna Clyne among others.

Sphinx Virtuosi | Detroit, MI 2015-Present
Concertmaster

An extension of the Sphinx Organization, the Sphinx Virtuosi is a self-conducted chamber orchestra composed of the nation's top Black and Latinx classical soloists.

- Concertmaster and core member of the ensemble
- Debut album titled "Songs of Our Times" released on the Deutsche Grammophon in 2023
- Recent concert highlights include Carnegie Hall, Aldeburgh Festival (UK), Sala São Paulo (Brazil), Library of Congress, Kimmel Center, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum among others
- Member of the Sphinx Virtuosi Players Committee

Chineke! Foundation | London, England 2017-2020

The Chineke! Foundation strives to provide outstanding career opportunities to established Black and ethnically diverse classical musicians in the UK and Europe.

- Regular collaborator with the Chineke! Chamber Players

Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra | Saint Paul, MN 2017-2020
Regular Guest Musician

Catalyst Quartet | New York, NY 2016, 2019, 2022
Guest Violinist

Notable Engagements

Aldeburgh Festival | Aldeburgh, UK 2023

Sitka Music Festival | Sitka, Alaska 2021, 2023

- Festival Artist (2023)
- Resident String Quartet and Festival Artist (2021)
- Collaborations with Zuill Bailey, Kurt Nikkanen, and Yulia Gorenman

Queen Elizabeth Hall | London, England 2019

Oxford University | Oxford, England 2019

Chatsworth Arts Festival | Derbyshire, England 2019

Thy Chamber Music Festival On Tour | Scandinavian Fall Tour 2019

- One of five international artists invited to represent the festival
- Notable performances include Thisted Musikteater (Denmark) and Lund University (Sweden)

International Society of Bassists Conference | Bloomington, IN 2019
Guest Artist

- Collaborated with featured double bassist Chi-chi Nwanoku
- Performances at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

Thy Chamber Music Festival Vesløs, Denmark	2017, 2018
Junior Artist	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborations with Daniel Blumenthal, Tony Nys, and Justus Grimm • Performances at Kirsten Kjaer Museum and Viborg Musiksal 	
Carnegie Hall - Stern Auditorium New York, NY	2016
National Gallery of Art Washington DC	2016
Mount Moiwa Forest Gallery Sapporo, Japan	2015

Orchestral Experience

New World Symphony Miami Beach, FL	2017-2019
<i>The New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy, is a three-year fellowship program that prepares graduates of top music programs for leadership roles in leading professional orchestras and ensembles.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violin fellow • Regular concertmaster under Michael Tilson Thomas • Led the orchestra in our Carnegie Hall debut and broadcasts for medici.tv • Chamber music collaboration with pianist Anne-Marie McDermott • Active contributor to community engagement initiatives 	

Notable Engagements

Boulder Philharmonic Boulder, CO	2023
Guest Concertmaster	
Minnesota Orchestra Minneapolis, MN	2018, 2022
Substitute Violin	
Cabrillo Festival Orchestra Santa Cruz, CA	2019-2021
Section Second Violin	
Louisville Orchestra Louisville, KY	2020
Principal Second Violin (Interim)	
Chineke! Orchestra London, UK	2017
Guest Concertmaster	

Broadcast and Media Coverage

Apple Music Classical	2023
Interview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviewed to promote the release of Sphinx Virtuosi's recent album 	
Strad Magazine	2023
Print Interview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviewed as part of a larger story titled "Sphinx Organization - Change for Good" 	

- Arts Engines** | Detroit Public Television 2023
Interview
- Interviewed by host Aaron Dworkin about my role as concertmaster of the Sphinx Virtuosi and our album release
- CNN - Juneteenth Celebration** | CNN 2022
Broadcast Performance
- Performed as Principal 2nd violin at the Hollywood Bowl for a Live Broadcast aired on CNN
- Kennedy Center Honors** | PBS Television | Washington DC 2019
Broadcast Performance
- Performed as part of the presentation for honoree Michael Tilson Thomas
- BBC Radio 3** | London, England 2019
Broadcast Performance and Interview
- Live on-air performance of Louis Spohr's Nonet, Op. 31 and "Nnenna" by Errollyn Wallen
 - Participated in an on-air interview
- De Standaard** | Belgium 2019
Featured Story
- Contributed to a story discussing diversity in classical music
- South Florida Classical Review** | Miami, FL 2019
Concert Review
- *"Violinist Alex Gonzalez's sliding portamento aptly conjured up images of a cafe gypsy fiddler."*
- Colorado Public Radio** | Denver, CO 2018
Broadcast Performance
- Sky Arts Television Network** | London, England 2017
Documentary Feature
- Performances featured in the television documentary *"Passions: Chi-Chi Nwanoku on Samuel Coleridge-Taylor"*
- Viborg Folkeblad** | Viborg, Denmark 2017
Concert Review
- *"...[Gonzalez] played like a true virtuoso..."*
 - *"...left the audience almost breathless..."*
- South Florida Classical Review** | Miami, FL 2017
Concert Review
- *"...the agile, incisive playing of violinists Jessica Ryu and Alex Gonzalez were standouts."*

Commercial Recordings

Songs of our Times Deutsche Grammophon Label Sphinx Virtuosi - Debut Album	2023
Edgar Meyer: Complete Double Bass Concertos Label TBD The Knights and Edgar Meyer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release date TBD	2023
Shorthand: Works by Anna Clyne Label TBD The Knights with Avi Avital, Pekka Kuusisto, and Yo-Yo Ma <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release date TBD	2023
Beethoven and Brahms Violin Concertos Canary Classics Label The Knights and Gil Shaham <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nominated for “Best Solo Instrumental Album” at the 2022 Grammy Awards	2022
Jeremy Denk - Mozart Piano Concertos Nonesuch Records Jeremy Denk and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra	2021

Outreach, Engagement, and Advocacy Initiatives

University of Puget Sound Puget Sound, WA Guest Lecturer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led a virtual lecture discussing strategies and considerations to consider when developing inclusive community engagement initiatives	2021
Sphinx Connect Conference Detroit, MI Panelist <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sat on a panel discussing the orchestral audition process, and ways to make it a more equitable and inclusive endeavor	2020
New York Philharmonic Very Young Composers Program New York, NY Guest Artist <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborated virtually with a young composer in the program to develop her new work• Premiered her completed work in recital at Yamaha Studios in New York City	2019
Longy School of Music of Bard College Cambridge, MA Panelist and Masterclass Leader <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sat on a panel discussing careers in classical music• Co-presented a masterclass for the school’s chamber orchestra	2019
National YoungArts Foundation Miami Beach, FL Guest Artist <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborated with the winning composition students in coaching sessions• Performed student works in recital at the New World Center	2017

Penn State University | State College, PA 2016
Guest Lecturer

- Led a discussion on strategies for effective teamwork and collaboration in the workplace, using chamber music as a representative model

Columbia University | New York, NY 2015
Guest Lecturer

- Led a discussion on the historical and social context behind pieces performed for the students

Service

Mosaic Music Publications Advisory Board | Knoxville, TN 2023-Present
Member

- Advisor and consultant for their upcoming anthology of graded repertoire by Black and Latinx composers

Sphinx Performance Academy at CU Boulder | Boulder, CO 2022-Present
Curriculum Coordinator, Liaison, and Audition Adjudicator

- Create curriculum and guest artist roster for the program
- Facilitate partnership and maintain communication between CU Boulder and the Sphinx Organization
- Adjudicate auditions for the program
- Teach on the violin faculty during the program

Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra Program (NYO2) | New York, NY 2020-Present
Adjudicator

- Evaluate violin applicants for admission to the program
- Provide constructive comments to all violinists applying to the program

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee | The Knights | Brooklyn, NY 2020-Present
Member

- Evaluate the organization's deficiencies in racial equity
- Implement policies and initiatives that promote organization-wide inclusion and belonging

Sphinx Virtuosi Players Committee | Sphinx Organization | Detroit, MI 2020-Present
Member

- Curate concert repertoire for the ensemble
- Curate educational outreach programs
- Collaborate with concert presenters and management

New World Symphony Audition Tour | Chicago, IL 2023
Guest Judge

- Sat on the panel to select the incoming class of New World Symphony Fellows for the 2023-2024 season

Violin Society of America Competition | Anaheim, CA 2022
Judge

- Served as a judge for the String Quartet Division of the VSA Competition

New World Symphony Community Engagement Program | Miami Beach, FL 2017-2019
Active Contributor

- Led engagement initiatives and private instruction for students from partner institutions
- Served as a jury member for the “Side-by-Side” Concerto Competition
- Led public interviews with visiting guest artists

University of Colorado Boulder - Service and Student Accomplishment

Committee Work

- Curriculum Committee 2023-2024
- Violin Faculty Search Committee 2023
- Double Bass Faculty Search Committee 2023
- Graduate Student Committees 2022-Present
 - Emma Reynolds (MM)
 - Peyton Magalhaes (MM)
 - Charlie Bistodeau (MM)
 - Laura Perez Rangel (MM)
 - Kurt Melendy (DMA)
 - Gleyton Pinto (DMA)
 - Jonathon Winter (DMA)
 - Julian Bennet (DMA)
 - Nicole Chung (AD)
 - Alysson Stibbards (AD)
 - Peyton Magalhaes (AD)
 - Primary Advisor for:
 - Lauren Zimmeran (MM)
 - Joy Yamaguchi (DMA)
 - Greg Abrell (DMA)
 - MarieFaith Lane (AD)
 - Jordan Grantonic (AD)
 - Alexi Whitsel (AD)

Student Accomplishments

- MarieFaith Lane (AD '24)
 - Aspen Music Festival and School
 - Orchestral String Fellowship Recipient
 - National American String Teachers Association
 - Presenter
 - Dairy Arts Center “30 under 30” Awards
 - Recipient
- Lucy Rissman (BM '23)
 - 2023 CU Boulder Honors Competition
 - Finalist
 - 2023 CU Boulder Honors Graduation Recital
 - String Department Representative
- Eli Pouliot (BM '25)
 - Castleman Quartet Program
 - Participant