JULIAN MERCER

MUSICIAN

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Professional violinist with 12+ years in symphony, opera, and chamber settings and a studio of private students. AFM Local 6 member who sight-reads reliably, performs dozens of concerts and school programs a season, and teaches students from beginner to conservatory audition level.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Section Violinist Sep 2021 - Present
Santa Rosa Symphony, Santa Rosa, CA

- Perform in the first violin section for 18 subscription concerts a season across six programs, preparing each new program in a one-week rehearsal cycle.
- Served as assistant principal for eight concerts while the principal was on leave, leading bowings and section rehearsals.
- Played solo features in two community-engagement programs that drew about 1,200 combined listeners.
- Joined the orchestra's education quartet, performing school concerts for 3,500 students across 20 campuses a year.
- Prepared concerto and chamber repertoire by logging practice goals and recording playback, which cut rehearsal corrections noted by the conductor.

Freelance Orchestral Musician Aug 2018 - Aug 2021
Opera San José, San Jose, CA

- Performed in the pit orchestra for 5 productions a season, covering full-length opera scores on short rehearsal schedules.
- Accepted last-minute calls to cover 12 services and held seat accuracy with no missed entrances reported.
- Recorded two film-score sessions and a regional album as a section player.
- Collaborated with singers and conductors during staging rehearsals to align tempo changes and cues.

Violin Faculty Sep 2016 - Jun 2021
Community Music Center of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

- Taught 22 weekly private students ages 7 to 17, preparing six of them for All-State and youth orchestra auditions with all six placing.
- Designed a technical curriculum for beginners with scales, etudes, and recital pieces, which cut dropout to 4% in the first year.
- Organized two student recitals a year for up to 80 families, collecting feedback from parents to adjust programming.

Violinist Sep 2014 - Jun 2016
Marin Symphony, San Rafael, CA

- Played second violin in a regional professional orchestra, covering 20 concerts per season across classical and pops programs.
- Premiered a new work by a local composer in a chamber series, preparing the part in three weeks.

CORE SKILLS

Orchestral violin | Chamber music | Sight-reading | Solo performance | Private instruction | Curriculum design | Ensemble leadership | Studio recording | Concerto repertoire | Music theory | Concert programming | Audition preparation | Education outreach

EDUCATION

Master of Music in Violin Performance, Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY

CERTIFICATIONS

Member, American Federation of Musicians Local 6 | Suzuki Method Teacher Training, Unit 1 to 4 | CPR and First Aid