



Viola

Introducing Annette Caruthers

I was pleased to be offered the opportunity to write and edit viola items. As we all do, I have ideas I'd like to put together and share, such as technique books that I really like using with my students, thoughts on the differences between violins and violas from a player's and teacher's viewpoint, what keeps me motivated, etc.

But many of you have never heard of me before and so I should introduce myself. I live in St. Louis Park, just outside Minneapolis and Edina. I have had a busy professional playing career in the last 28 years. I played with the Spokane Symphony while I was a student at Eastern Washington University. From there I moved to Salt Lake City, Utah to study with Sally Peck after graduation. I spent a year working an office job (which was a great motivation to practice!!!) and

studying privately, then joined the Utah Symphony. I moved to the Twin Cities in 1976 as a newly-hired member of the Minnesota Orchestra, with which I played for two years. In 1978, as a new mom, I began free-lancing and am now Principal Violist with many organizations including the Minnesota Opera Orchestra, Plymouth Music Series and Minnesota Sinfonia.

All along the way I have been teaching students in varying numbers, both violin and viola. I like the variety of teaching both instruments, and of combining playing and teaching. I did start out on violin, and studied as a violinist until I was halfway through college, finally zeroing in on the viola when my private teacher pointed out I could make twice the progress if I would concentrate on one or the other. So I have an interesting

mix of experience and repertoire to call upon in my teaching, plus several years of experience with Suzuki Teacher Training and observations.

I have tried to really learn pedagogy and increase my bag of tricks to use in working with a variety of students. I teach in a private studio rented from the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd at 48th and France, a few students who come to my home at odd times, and in the Suzuki Program at MacPhail Center for the Arts; 35 students each week. I am not bored yet!! Anyone wanting to offer comments, suggestions for topics, or suggestions for anything else, can reach me at: acaruthers@state.net, or snail mail at 4180 Brookside Ave. S., St. Louis Park, MN 55416, telephone 612-924-0663.

Annette Caruthers