

# Karen Ritscher

Associate Professor of Viola

## CONTACT INFO

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## Educational Background

Bachelor of Music, Eastman School of Music, 1974

Master of Music, Eastman School of Music, 1978

Viola studies with Martha Strongin Katz and Francis Tursi

Additional studies with Karen Tuttle

Chamber music studies with Paul Katz, Aldo Parisot, and Donald Weilerstein



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## Performance Experience (Chamber Music)

Azure Ensemble, New York City (2003-present); Mercury Baroque Ensemble, Houston, Texas (2004); Greenbriar Chamber Players, Houston, Texas (2004); Aureus Piano Quartet (1990-1996); Additional chamber music performances with James Oliver Buswell IV, Paul Katz, Ani Kavafian, and Nathaniel Rosen.

## Performances of Premieres and/or Commissioned Works by

Bruce Adolphe Linda Bouchard Wendy Mae Chambers Bright Sheng Alice Shields Chen Yi

## Performance Experience (Orchestras)

Assistant Principal, American Composers Orchestra (1990-1999); Principal Violist, Dallas Opera (1997-1998); Principal Violist, Houston Grand Opera (2001-2003); Orchestra of St. Luke's (1983-2000); Orpheus Chamber Orchestra (1984-2000); Additional performances with the Houston Symphony and the New York Philharmonic.

## Performance Experience (Summer Festivals):

Aspen Music Festival (1994, 2002-2004); Beijing International Music Festival and Academy, Beijing, China (2004); Bowdoin Music Festival, Brunswick, Maine (1994-1999); Heifetz International Summer Institute (2005); Musicorda Summer Music Festival (1989-1991, 2002-2004); Texas Music Festival (1994-present).

## Teaching Affiliations:

Associate Professor of Viola, Rice University (1999-2005); Artist Faculty of Viola and Chamber Music, Mannes College of Music (1984-2002); Artist Faculty of Viola, Manhattan School of Music (1987-1999); Karen Tuttle Coordination Workshop (2002 - present).

## Masterclasses:

New England Conservatory of Music, University of Northern Iowa, Hartt School of Music, University of Oklahoma, University of Tennessee, University of Houston, Seoul, Korea. Featured panelist and performer, International Viola Congress.

## Panels and Publications:

American String Teachers Association (Featured panelist, Fort Worth, Texas, 2004); Primrose Competition (Chair of Tape Round, 2003); Journal of the American Viola Society (Education Editor, "In the Studio," 2002-present); The Art of Practicing: A Guide to Making Music from the Heart by Madeline Bruser (Bell Tower, 1997); string consultant.

## Professional Affiliations:

American Viola Society (Board member 1996-2002)