

COACH BIOS

Liz Dinwiddie is the Director of Instrumental and Early Childhood Studies at Parlando School for the Arts in Boulder. She received her Bachelor of Music at Boston University in viola performance and her Master of Music the University of Colorado at Boulder in viola performance and pedagogy. Ms. Dinwiddie is currently a violist with the Boulder Chamber Orchestra. Her article titled "Setup: Fitting the Instrument to the Body When All Bodies are Different" was featured in *American String Teacher* in 2007. Ms. Dinwiddie has participated in the Aspen and Tanglewood music festivals and her teachers have included Michelle LaCourse, James Dunham, Erika Eckert and Barbara Hamilton. She has played in the viola sections of the Greeley Philharmonic, New England Philharmonic, Ft. Collins Symphony, and Boulder Philharmonic. Ms. Dinwiddie's early childhood education experience includes three years of teaching preschool and Suzuki training.

Miguel Halvorsen-Ramos studied with the great Cuban violist Guillermo Perich at the University of Illinois, and in 1992 received a Bachelor of Music degree (viola performance). Subsequently, he has been an active performer and teacher in the Boulder, CO area, as well as performing around the U.S. with Cabaret Diosa, a mambo band. Area ensembles have included: The Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, Boulder Chamber Orchestra, Longmont Symphony, Philharmonia of Colorado, Anasazi String Quartet, and the Colorado Mahlerfest. Mr. Ramos currently teaches string orchestra for the Boulder Valley School District and offers individual instruction in Boulder.

Dr. William Hinkie, principal violist of the Denver Philharmonic, string education instructor at the University of Northern Colorado and Music Director of the Commerce City Youth Orchestra enjoys a fulfilling career as both a performer and a string music educator. He is the faculty advisor to the student chapter of CASTA at UNC and serves as the Northern Colorado Representative for the Colorado American String Teacher's Association. In addition to this, Dr. Hinkie is the Orchestra Director at Colorow and Governor's Ranch Elementary Schools in the Jefferson County School system. He also maintains a class of violin, viola and cello students in Broomfield and at the Denver School of the Arts. For the past four summers, Dr. Hinkie has been an artist faculty member at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan where he has taught violin, viola and cello as well as string chamber music.

As a performer, Dr. Hinkie has been playing with professional orchestras since the age of 19 as a violinist and violist in the states of Louisiana, Ohio, Minnesota and Texas. As the principal violist of the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, Dr. Hinkie had the honor of appearing as a guest soloist with the orchestra performing Carl Maria von Weber's Andante and Hungarian Rondo for viola and orchestra in February of 2009. This fall he also assumed the position as principal violist of the Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra in Denver, CO. He is also a frequent substitute violist with the Boulder Philharmonic, the Fort Collins Symphony, the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and the Colorado Ballet. His current chamber music activities include performing with the Intermezzo Chamber Players on the Eclectic Concert Series in Denver and the summer Faculty Chamber Music series at the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Dr. Hinkie has a degree in music education with an emphasis in violin performance from Louisiana State University, a Master of Music degree in viola performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in viola performance from the University of Minnesota. He also studied viola as an orchestral fellowship recipient at the Aspen Music School for four summers. His teachers have included Heidi Castleman, Sally O'Reilly, Victoria Chiang, Ellen Rose, Thomas Turner and Korey Konkol.

Michelle Lazarus is the Orchestra Director at McCormick Junior High and Central High School in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She plays viola in the Cheyenne Symphony and is a member of the Cheyenne String Quartet. In the summer, she is a member of the Cheyenne City Band, playing oboe. Ms. Lazarus is the past Orchestra Vice-president of the Wyoming Music Educators Association.

Jim Mothersbaugh holds a bachelor of Music degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where his principal teacher was Adon Foster, and a Master of Music degree in Violin Performance from The Hartt School of Music in Hartford, Connecticut, where his principal teachers were Rafael Bronstein and Ariana Bronne. Additionally, he has done doctoral course work toward a Doctoral of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting with William Larue Jones at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. A former Concertmaster with the Wyoming Symphony, Mothersbaugh has taught grade 5-12 strings for the Natrona County School District #1 in Casper since 1990. He currently teaches grade 5 & 6 strings and enjoys umpiring youth baseball during the summer months.

Faye Palmer graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Music in violin and has a Masters in Music Ed from Wichita State University. She has taught in private violin and viola studio, private school, and public schools. Currently, she has a private studio at her home in Colorado Springs and is a teacher for the Mozart Strings Project in Falcon, CO, a strings outreach program sponsored by the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association.

A native of Longview, Washington, **Clark Potter** began work as the viola professor at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in 1996, where he serves as Chair of the string area and on the conducting faculty. Mr. Potter is principal viola of the Lincoln Symphony and an active performer as a solo recitalist and chamber musician, and he has premiered dozens of pieces for the viola in the last few years. Mr. Potter is the director of NEBratsche, the viola ensemble at UNL and he conducts the Lincoln Youth Symphony. He is also a member of the Third Chair Chamber Players and is in demand as an adjudicator and clinician at schools in Nebraska and around the region. In 2007, Mr. Potter was selected to receive the award for Private String Teacher of the Year by the Nebraska chapter of the American String Teachers Association, and in 2008 he was honored as the String Educator of the Year in Nebraska by the same organization.

Prior to his appointment at Nebraska, Mr. Potter taught nine years at Eastern Oregon University, where he was associate professor of strings and conductor of the Grande Ronde Symphony. He received his graduate degrees from Indiana University and California Institute of the Arts and his bachelor's degree from Western Washington University. He has studied with Charmian Gadd, Peter Marsh, James Dunham and Mimi Zweig.

During the summers, Mr. Potter is on the faculty of the University of Nebraska's Chamber Music Institute and the Omaha Conservatory of Music Institute. He has been a performer in the Oregon Coast Music Festival Orchestra, a guest artist at Rocky Ridge Music Center, artist/teacher of viola and chamber music at the Young Musicians and Artists summer program in Salem, Oregon, the Puget Sound Chamber Music Workshop, Lutheran Summer Music program and the Csehy Summer School of Music in Philadelphia. He is active in the American String Teachers Association: he served six years on the board of the Nebraska chapter, he was president of the Oregon chapter, and he has written for the organization's national magazine. Mr. Potter has also dabbled in composition. He has composed three pieces for young orchestras, and he has written music for two contemporary ballets, one full-length "cowboy" musical, several pieces for choir and pieces for smaller instrumental combinations, including a sextet for violas.

Phillip Stevens, violist, is currently a member of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and is Affiliate Professor of Viola at Metropolitan State College of Denver. Before joining the Colorado Symphony in 1996, Phillip was a member of the Ann Arbor Symphony and the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra. Phillip also teaches privately, and is active in bringing music out to the schools through the Colorado Symphony's educational programs Petite Musique and Once Upon a Time, and also through the organizations Up Close and Musical and Friends of Chamber Music.

Phillip began his musical education in his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri. He later received his Bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan studying with Yitzhak Schotten, and completed graduate work at Northwestern University under Peter Slowik. During this time, he won first prize in the Viola division of the 1994 National ASTA Music Competition, and spent his summers studying at the Aspen Music Festival.

In Chicago, Phillip's chamber music career began as a founding member Sheridan Chamber Players, a group which focused on performing new works by local composers and was highlighted in national radio broadcasts. He has also been part of numerous chamber music groups in Denver, and participates most years in the Chintimini Chamber Music Festival in Corvallis, Oregon. In addition, Phillip will play in a chamber music recital at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in March, 2010 as part of the DCINY Distinguished Concert Artist Series.

Violist **Juliet White-Smith** is an active soloist, chamber musician and clinician. She has performed throughout North America, in Europe and in the Middle East. She has appeared at three International Viola Congresses: in Montreal in 2006, and in Tempe, Arizona in 2008 and in August 2009 in Stellenbosch, South Africa outside Cape Town. Her chamber music collaborations have brought her onstage with such luminaries as violinists Andres Cardenes and Benny Kim and pianist Gilbert Kalish. She has been a guest artist at various summer music festivals including Strings in the Mountains and the Fontana Festival in Michigan. As an orchestral musician, she has performed in the viola sections of the Rochester Philharmonic, the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, and the Grand Rapids Symphony.

A devoted educator with a history of printed contributions in *American String Teacher* and *Journal of the American Viola Society*, Dr. White-Smith is in demand as a clinician, master class teacher and adjudicator. She has presented master classes at institutions across the country including the Eastman School of Music, The Pennsylvania State University, and the Universities of Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska-Lincoln and Utah. She was a featured presenter at the 2007 American String Teachers Association Conference in Detroit, Michigan and will return as a presenter in February 2010 in Santa Clara, California. Dr. White-Smith chaired the editorial committee for the viola section of the 2009 revised edition of the ASTA Syllabus. She has served as string juror for various competitions including the William Primrose International Viola Competition, the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition in Dallas, Texas and the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Concerto Competition. Dr. White-Smith has taught on the faculties of the Interlochen Arts Camp and Bravo! Summer Institute for Strings and Piano at the University of Minnesota.

A prominent advocate of the viola, Dr. White-Smith is currently President of the American Viola Society. Her debut CD recording of works by contemporary American composers George Walker, Michael Colgrass and Maurice Gardner (*Fashionably Late: Juliet White-Smith Debuts!*) was released in May 2009 on the Centaur Records label.

Dr. White-Smith holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, the University of Houston and Louisiana State University. Her principals teachers include violists George Taylor and Lawrence Wheeler, and violinists Sally O'Reilly and Fredell Lack. She began her college teaching career as a visiting professor at Western Michigan University at the age of twenty-five.