

In fourth grade, when I first received my  $\frac{3}{4}$  size violin, I realized I wanted to pursue a career in music education. I am passionate about the violin and have had the privilege of studying under remarkable musicians growing up in Chicago. Forrest R. Etling was my first instructor when I began my musical journey. I was also a member of the Elgin Youth Symphony, where I was influenced by Margaret Hillis, conductor of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. It was during this time that I developed a love for conducting.

For my degree, I initially attended The Ohio State University, studying with Michael Davis, concertmaster of the Columbus Symphony, and Robert Gillespie, through the Essential Elements program. I transferred to Ohio University to study with Howard Beebe, whose teaching approach inspired my desire to become a violin instructor. His pedagogical style empowered me to achieve things I previously believed impossible.

I started teaching privately in 2005 at a guitar shop. As my teaching grew, I established my own string studio, Backroom Music Studio, which has successfully produced three orchestras at various levels. Returning to the Tri-State area is a true joy, and I feel honored to share my passion for teaching strings in this community.