

Bari Frimkess, Violin

Next up on our violin spotlights: Bari, who also serves as our very own Orchestra Personnel Manager.



Could you tell me a little bit about yourself?

I was born and raised in Southern California, moved to Ashland in 1992 where I have been since. I have two grown sons, one living in Corvallis and one in the DC area. I'm married to Steven Frimkess.

**What brought or inspired you to pursue violin?
If you'd like to share one of your favorite pieces of music as well, I'd like to know!**

Singing and making music with others were always major loves of mine from a very early age. When I was in second grade my older brother took up the viola. Watching him and seeing the joy he was having inspired me to take up the violin.

What do you enjoy most about being with the Rogue Valley Symphony?

It is difficult to identify what I enjoy "most" about being with the Rogue Valley Symphony, as there is so much that I love about the experience. To be able to play with the very talented and skilled musicians under the direction of our brilliant maestro is a tremendous gift. Add to this the amazing guest soloists who join us and the entire experience is thrilling.

What do you do when you're not playing music i.e. what are your hobbies or interests?

I am an avid tennis player. I am very involved in our Jewish community as a teacher and as a lay leader. I am on the Board of the Klamath Bird Observatory. I am a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), advocating for kids in foster care.

Finally, one unusual fact, story, or tidbit about you or your instrument?

When I was young and ready for a full-size violin, my mother was told that it was important that I have a fairly good instrument to learn on. That violin is the one that I play today, more than 50 years later. Thank you Mom!

