

Musician Spotlights, Issue 19

Ben Gardner, Violin

Marching on with the second week of violin spotlights, we have Ben, our Assistant Principal Violin 2.



Could you tell me a little bit about yourself?

I grew up in Wyoming with a mother who would take me to every play, concert, gallery, and art film she could, so I grew up with a fondness for the arts.

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!

My mom told me I had to play a stringed instrument. I actually wanted to play the cello but I had to walk to school, so I picked the violin! My favorite piece changes quite often, but I've recently been listening to Sciarrino's violin caprices and Saariaho's "...de la terre" on repeat.

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

The people! What a great job to get right out of school. I get to come to rehearsal and be with so many kind, excited musicians.

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

When I'm putting off practicing I'm often rock climbing, walking my pug, or playing video games.

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

If you play with a very slow, very heavy bow, you can actually play an octave below the violins standard range. These notes are called subharmonics and sound very ugly, but very cool!

