

Carla Ecker, Violin

Last but certainly not least in our violin spotlights, to celebrate the official National Violin Day, we've got Carla, our Concertmaster!



Could you tell me a little bit about yourself?

I'm a native Arizonan who loves the desert, but since working with the RVS [I am] LOVING the greenery, the seasons and the crisp air in the cooler seasons. I know it's controversial, but I even love the deer! I dwell in Phoenix, AZ with my awesome husband Alan, where I play the violin and cultivate my fairly new real estate career, and spend my summers in Santa Fe where I play opera and hike. And eat. And then hike more so I can eat more.

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!

When I reached college age, I knew in my heart that I was a violinist. But it took me a year to commit and to trust myself that

I could be successful, and that I had enough talent and drive. I was very afraid to fail, but as my colleagues know, I also could not ignore that pull and I just was a musician. Being a violinist was always the beautiful thread that led me through life, even when it involved hardship, rejection, or self-doubt. All of those things also required me to learn to be brave and to not quit. So I went for it and never looked back.

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

Becoming Concertmaster of the Rogue Valley Symphony came to me at a time when I was craving some new life in my career, and in my life in general! I had an old school days connection with Maestro Majkut and I felt a great working kinship with him instantly, but also just a wonderful personal connection. To me, the music and the people I make the music with are of equal importance. There's so much trust and appreciation of one another involved, and we're taking these intense journeys together. So, not only do I enjoy learning about my colleagues every time we play together or chat during a break, but I also feel honored to have the opportunity to earn their trust every time we're on stage together. Another very important and fulfilling part of my job in the RVS is the support and warmth I feel from the audiences here. There is something very special and satisfying about playing for the folks here. I feel part of a special slice of the community.

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

One of the silver linings of my pandemic experience was having a little extra time to explore new avenues, one of which is real estate. I got my license and have now added "real estate agent" to my bag of tricks! It's thrilling to learn something completely new, and also very humbling to feel like the new kid at this juncture in my life. It is forcing me to take new stock of how I spend my time, so that I can be continually successful having a dual career. An ongoing project for the last couple of years is the house that I bought and gutted with my husband, Alan, who is an amazingly talented woodworker, and has built all of our beautiful bamboo cabinetry for the entire place, amongst many, many other facets of the house. It's truly a labor of love, and also a lesson in patience! I also do a bit of editing for a dear friend who has a growing and thriving Feldenkrais practice here in Phoenix for her blogs, articles, newsletters or anything else she needs help with.

Feldenkrais has been a super important part of my life since I started practicing several years ago, so doing this work also serves to keep me in that head space. If there's any attention span left at the end of the day I love my NY Times crosswords, podcasts of all sorts, or a good read.