

Linda Gregorian Biography

Musical Biography Information & Personal Statement: I am most fortunate to have been able to spend my adult years combining what I love doing most, being a trained violinist/violist and teaching children the stringed instruments (violin, viola, cello, & bass) for a 40-plus year career.

I first started private teaching while an Undergraduate student at Michigan State University where I graduated with Honors from Michigan State University with a degree in Violin Performance. I eventually earned a Master of Music degree from the University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana, successfully completed Suzuki Violin Teacher Training Units 1A-6, and earned a Music Education degree from MSU in 1992.

My principal teachers included Lyman Bodman, Walter Verdehr, Delmar Pettys and Dorothy DeLay. As a high school and college student, I attended the Interlochen National Music Camp and the Meadowmount School.

My teaching experience includes 13 years as a private teacher in Owensboro, Kentucky, 8 years for the Michigan State University Suzuki Program, 27 years for the Okemos, Michigan Suzuki Program, and 17 years as 5th grade Strings Instructor for the Okemos Public Schools which began in 1994. In addition, I have held positions as Conductor of the Owensboro Cadet Orchestra and created the Okemos "String Buddy" Program which allows 5th grade Strings students the opportunity to receive free private lessons & mentoring from college & high school students during their 5th grade Strings year.

I have served on the string faculties of the Owensboro Area Music Camp, Blue Lake Suzuki Family Camp, and New England Music Camp in Maine. As a string clinician, I have also presented workshops at the Michigan Music Conference and at a number of Suzuki Workshops in the state of Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

As violist, I am a contract member of the Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra and perform on faculty recitals at the New England Music Camp. I have received a variety of awards and honors including an Interlochen Music Camp merit scholarship award, Phi Kappa Phi Scholastic Honorary, Alpha Lambda Delta Scholastic Honorary, University of Evansville Concerto Competition Winner, and the Commitment to Excellence teaching award by the Okemos Education Foundation.

Through the years, I have appreciated my ASTA membership with the privileges & publications that have inspired me. Being able to gather new ideas & information on being a successful strings teacher has been a huge advantage to my teaching goals & achievements. As an example, I used my 2002 Okemos Education Foundation Award money-prize to attend the National ASTA Convention in Dallas in 2004. It was very inspirational to see some new trends on the horizon, namely "Alternative Styles" teaching &

playing. I met Mark Wood, & heard members of the Turtle Island String Quartet perform and give sessions on teaching Alternative Styles. This was an eye-opener for me and led to my incorporating a Fiddle Unit into my Suzuki Advanced Violin Group Class as well as acquiring grant money from ASTA to enable a performance by Jeremy Kittle in Okemos for the Strings/ Orchestra/Suzuki students.

Among the private studio & public school students I have taught, many have moved on to attend major music schools including Curtis Institute of Music and the New England Conservatory. Some former students have established professional careers in music. As an example, one past private studio student, Melissa White, is presently a member of the Harlem String Quartet and another public school student is General Manager of the Portland, Maine Symphony. Other former students are playing in professional orchestras and/or enjoying music teaching careers. Still others have continued their involvement with their instrument as an avocation.

More than two thirds of my life has been devoted to learning & making music as well as teaching those students who have come my way, numbering in the several thousands. I have three grown children who are continuing the legacy of playing & teaching the stringed instruments, and a few grandchildren "coming along" with their playing!!! I count myself as a very lucky individual to be able to participate in this wonderful profession of teaching music!!!

Thank you for your consideration in the new MASTA Studio Teacher Award for 2014!

Linda Gregorian is married to Leon Gregorian, recently retired from Michigan State University after 28 years as Music Director and Conductor of Orchestras in the College of Music. They have three children, Ara, Ani, and Alicia, all accomplished musicians.