

Joshua Shepherd, DMA

Conductor • Director of Operations • Educator

JoshuaShepherdConductor.com • JoshuaDShepherd@gmail.com • 786-877-2801

Conductor and arts administrator with over twenty years of professional experience across symphonic, pops, opera, musical theatre, ballet, and film repertoire. Currently serving as Director of Operations for Symphony of the Mountains and as Founder and Music Director of The People's Orchestra of Nashville. Active as a guest and cover conductor with orchestras across the United States, recognized as a three-time national finalist for *The American Prize in Conducting* and *The American Prize in Orchestral Performance*. Experienced in artistic planning, orchestra operations, musician personnel management, education and community engagement, and programming that connects diverse audiences through both traditional and contemporary repertoire.

Education

University of Miami, Frost School of Music

Coral Gables, FL

Doctor of Musical Arts in Viola Performance

Primary Advisor: Pamela McConnell, Professor of Viola

Document Topic: “*York Bowen’s Viola Concerto: A Methodology of Study*”

University of South Florida

Tampa, FL

Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting

Graduate Certificate in Viola Performance

Primary Teachers: Dr. William Wiedrich, Professor of Conducting and Kathie Aagaard, Professor of Viola

Florida Atlantic University

Boca Raton, FL

Bachelor of Music Education, (Voice, Violin and Viola)

Primary Teachers: Dr. Patricia Fleitas, Professor of Choral and Vocal Studies, Dr. Eric Thomas, Professor of Voice and Rebecca Lautar, Professor of Violin and Viola

Conducting Teachers

Dr. William Wiedrich, Cristian Măcelaru, Octavio Más-Arocas, Dr. Donald Portnoy, Peter Jaffe, Paul Vermel, Sarah Ioannides, Mark Gibson, Aaron Kula, Dr. Scott Woodard

Academic Appointments and Orchestral Leadership

Symphony of the Mountains

2026

Director of Operations

- Oversees orchestra personnel management, contracting, and scheduling
- Manages music library operations and materials preparation
- Coordinates production logistics, stage operations, and technical needs
- Serves as liaison between artistic leadership, musicians, and production staff

Emporia State University

2024-2025

Interim Director of Orchestras and Upper Strings

Assistant Professor of Music

- Led and administered the String Area and Orchestra Program, including supervision of adjunct cello and bass faculty.
- Conducted Emporia Symphony and Chamber Orchestra; oversaw repertoire selection, rehearsals, and performances.
- Coordinated String Area juries and annual Concerto Competition.
- Taught applied violin and viola, and Music Theory III (chromatic harmony).
- Developed recruitment initiatives including side-by-side performances with middle and high school students.
- Organized and led outreach concert for 400+ elementary students.
- Collaborated on Core Curriculum, Recruitment, and Scholarship Committees.
- Managed production logistics including library, personnel, venues, and A/V.

The People's Orchestra of Nashville (Nashville, TN)

2020-Present

(formerly the Nashville Reading Orchestra)

Music Director and Conductor

- Founded and developed a community-based orchestra of students, professionals, and adult musicians.
- Conduct all rehearsals and performances; oversee programming, personnel, and concert production.
- Program a wide range of repertoire including symphonic masterworks, opera, ballet, musical theatre, film music, and works by underrepresented composers.
- Built audience engagement through live and digital concerts, media outreach, and community partnerships.
- Ensemble recognized as a three-time national finalist for *The American Prize in Conducting* and *The American Prize in Orchestral Performance*.

Teaching, Lecturing and Adjudicating Experience

James Bland Scholarship Competition (Tennessee)

Adjudicator

2026

- Served as an adjudicator for instrumental performances at the state level.

Emporia State University

2024-2025

Director of Orchestras and Upper Strings

- *Music Theory 3*: taught chromatic harmony, analysis, and voice leading.
- *Applied Violin and Viola Lessons*: individualized instruction for students of varying ability.
- *String Area Juries and Concerto Competition Auditions*: coordinated juries and oversaw auditions.
- Ensemble participation: mentored students through orchestral training in the Emporia Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra.

KSHSAA State Large Group Festival (Kansas)

Adjudicator

2025

- Served as an adjudicator for large ensemble performances at the state level.

KSHSAA Regional Solos & Small Ensembles Festival 2 (Topeka, KS area)

Adjudicator

2025

- Served as an adjudicator for solo and small ensemble performances at the regional level.

KSHSAA Regional Solos & Small Ensembles Festival 1 (Wichita, KS area)

Adjudicator 2025

- Served as an adjudicator for solo and small ensemble performances at the regional level.

Junction City High School

Clinician 2024

- Worked with the school's orchestras on repertoire they were preparing for an upcoming concert.

Belmont University

Adjunct Music Instructor 2022

- *Music Theory 1*: taught core concepts in harmony, analysis, and musicianship.
- Integrated practical skills with academic study in a private Christian university setting.

Union University

2021-2024

Adjunct Music Instructor

- *Applied Viola Lessons*: taught lessons focused on technique, repertoire, and performance preparation.
- *Chamber Music and String Repertoire*: coached ensembles and taught repertoire course.

Fremont Music Academy

2018-2019

Minister of Music and Worship Arts

- Oversaw church music academy comprised of congregation members and community members (ages: children through adult). Led band and orchestra rehearsals.

Fine Arts Summer Academy

2015

Instructor

- Led viola sectional rehearsals, coached chamber music groups, assisted viola section in rehearsals and performances.

Brentwood Baptist Church

2011-2013

Instructor

- Taught violin and viola lessons at Brentwood Worshipping Arts Center.

FL-ASTA Collier County 'Viola Day'

2010

Lecturer

- Gave lecture on the works written for viola by composer York Bowen.

University of Miami Young Musician's Camp

2009-2012

Instructor

- Taught courses in conducting, chamber music, orchestral literature, vocal technique, music theory and string technique to middle and high school students.

Greater Miami Youth Symphony Summer Music Camp

2009

Instructor

- Taught courses in chamber music and viola ensemble to middle and high school students.

Luzerne Music Center Summer Music Camp

2007

Instructor

- Taught violin and viola individual private lessons and coached chamber groups.

Private Teaching (Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Nashville) 2004-Present
Instructor

- Taught individual private lessons to students of all ages and levels.

University of South Florida 2002-2004
Tutor and Graduate Student Assistant

- Tutored individual undergraduate students in the fundamentals of music theory.
- Taught theory concepts to undergraduate theory class in the *Teaching of Music Theory* course.

Guest and Assistant Conductor Experience (Professional Orchestras)

- Selected engagements include professional orchestras across a range of repertoire, ensemble sizes, and production models, including symphonic, pops, opera, and live to film performances.
- Supports rehearsal and performance operations; assists with production flow as needed.
- Experienced in union and non-union environments and a variety of stage management approaches.
- Stepped in on short notice to conduct Orchestra Kentucky's *Christmas Spectacular* with orchestra, choirs, and soloists, for an audience of close to 1,800 patrons.

Cave Run Symphony Orchestra (Morehead, KY) 2026
Guest Conductor

- Conducted the '*Tutu Terrific*' concert featuring ballet music by Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, and Copland.

Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra (Niceville, FL) 2025
Assistant Conductor

- Assisted/covered the December 2025 Holiday Pops concert featuring Irish group, *Solas*.
- Assisted/covered the October 2025 Season Opening concert: Coleman/Beethoven/Ravel.

Signature Symphony (Tulsa, OK) 2025
Assistant Conductor

- Assisted/covered the '*4th on the 3rd – Stars, Stripes and Symphony*' July 2025 Concert.
- Assisted/covered the April 2025 Season Finale concert: Respighi/Badelt/Meyer/Faingold.

Jackson Symphony Orchestra (Jackson, TN) 2024
Assistant Conductor

- Assisted/covered the October 2024 '*Hocus Pocus – In Concert Live to Film*' performance.

Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra (Winter Haven, FL) 2024
Guest Conductor

- Conducted the '*Shamrocks & Champagne*' concert featuring solo violinist and solo vocalist.

Orchestra Kentucky (Bowling Green, KY) 2023
Assistant/Guest Conductor

- As cover conductor: conducted second rehearsal and concert as music director became ill.
- '*Christmas Spectacular*' included two vocal soloists, adult choir, and children's choir.

- Huntsville Symphony Orchestra (Huntsville, AL)** 2023-2024
Assistant Conductor
- Assisted/covered the April 2024 Rimsky-Korsakov/Ravel concert.
 - Assisted/covered the September 2023 Tchaikovsky/Prokofiev concert.
 - Assisted/covered the April 2023 Brahms *German Requiem* concert.
- Butler Philharmonic Orchestra (Hamilton, OH)** 2022-2025
Assistant Conductor
- Assisted/covered the 2025 Christmas Concert (conducted “*Home Alone*” Suite and “*Bugler’s Holiday*”).
 - Assisted/covered the 2025 *Phantom of the Opera* “Live-To-Film” Concert.
 - Assisted/covered the 2025 Summer Pops Concert (conducted “*The Pink Panther Theme*”).
 - Assisted/covered the 2024 Christmas Concert (conducted “*Lullaby of the Drums*”).
 - Assisted/covered the 2023 Christmas Concert (conducted “*White Christmas*”).
 - Assisted/covered the May 2023 Season Finale Concert: Tchaikovsky Symphony #5.
 - Assisted/covered the 2022 Christmas Concert (conducted “*Jingle Bells Forever*”).
- Tennessee Philharmonic Orchestra (Murfreesboro, TN)** 2022-2024
Assistant Conductor
- Assisted/covered the April 2024 Season Finale Concert.
 - Assisted/covered the 2023 Christmas Concert.
 - Assisted/covered the April 2023 Season Finale Concert.
 - Assisted/covered the 2022 Christmas Concert.
 - Assisted/covered the 2022 Veterans Concert.
- Medical Musical Group “An American Resurrection” (Nashville, TN)** 2022
Rehearsal Conductor
- Assisted the production in leading a string sectional rehearsal of Mahler Symphony 2.
- Belmont University “Into the Woods” (Nashville, TN)** 2022
Assistant Conductor
- Assisted/covered the musical production.
- Union University Symphony Orchestra (Jackson, TN)** 2021-2022
Assistant Conductor
- Conducted the orchestra when music director was busy with other tasks.
- Tennessee Philharmonic Orchestra** 2021
Guest Conductor
- Conducted the ensemble’s first full orchestral performance since December 2019 in a Veterans Concert to honor those that have served our nation.
- Sacramento Youth Symphony** 2019
Guest Conductor
- Conducted the ‘*Classic Orchestra*’ in selections arranged by Merle J. Isaac.

Light Opera Theatre of Sacramento

2019

Assistant Conductor

- Conducted excerpts with the orchestra, chorus and soloists during warm-ups before performances and conducted the '*Bons*' music for each performance.

Christ Community Church

2019

Assistant Conductor

- Directed choir & orchestra in rehearsals and Sunday services.

Fremont Presbyterian Church

2018-2019

Minister of Music and Worship Arts

- Led the music in the Traditional Service, oversaw a music program including multiple vocal choirs, bell choir, orchestra and community arts program.

University of South Florida

2002-2004

Graduate Assistant Conductor

- Conducted the University Symphony Orchestra and the Recital Orchestra each semester.

Florida Atlantic University

2002

Undergraduate Conductor

- Served as cover conductor and led a rehearsal of Brandenburg Concerto #5. Conducted orchestra in the reading of an original orchestral arrangement at semester's end.

Other Guest Conducting Experience

Judson Baptist Church Choir, Nashville, TN

2018

Hilldale Baptist Church Choir, Clarksville, TN

2018

Our Savior Lutheran Church Choir, Plantation, FL

2008-2011

Performance Experience**Orchestral**Section Violin, Murfreesboro Symphony Orchestra, 2011-2018; Symphony of the Americas, 2010-2011Section Viola, Light Opera Theatre of Sacramento, 2019; Tennessee Philharmonic Orchestra 2018-Present; Symphony of the Americas, 2008-2009; Miami City Ballet, 2006-2007; Central Florida Symphony Orchestra, 2003-2006; Opera Tampa, 2003-2004; Punta Gorda Symphony, 2002-2004, Venice Symphony, 2002-2004Section Viola/Violin, Nashville Praise Symphony, 2011-Present; Paducah Symphony Orchestra, 2011-Present; Klezmer Company Orchestra, 2010-2018; Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra, 2006-2008; Ohio Light Opera, 2006; Craig Turley Orchestras, 2004-2008Section Violin and Viola Substitute, Corinth Symphony Orchestra, 2023; Bryan Symphony 2023, 2025; Jackson Symphony 2021-Present; Shoals Symphony Orchestra, 2014-2024; Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, 2011-2014, 2024; Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra, 2011-2014; Owensboro Symphony, 2018-2024; Orchestra Kentucky, 2011-2024; Palm Beach Pops, 2009-2011 & 2004-2006; Miami Symphony, 2008-2011; Symphony of the Americas, 2006-08; Palm Beach Opera, 2004-2006; Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra, 2004-2006**Chamber Music Performance**Viola, Luzerne Music Center Faculty Concerts (2007):

Dvořák “American” String Quartet & Brahms String Sextet No. 2 in G Major
Viola, University of Miami Trio with Guest Artist Mark O’Connor (2010):
O’Connor “Appalachia Waltz” and “Caprice for Three”

Broadway Pit Orchestra Experience

Viola, Monty Python’s Spamalot (Summer 2005; Schubert Theatre, NY)
Viola, Phantom of the Opera (Summer 2005; Majestic Theatre, NY)

Tours

Section Viola, *Mantovani Orchestra China Tours*
2007, 2009, 2012 & 2014

Section Viola, *Anne Murray Southeast US Tour*
2008; FL, GA & SC

Section Viola/Violin, *Mantovani Orchestra U.S. Christmas Tours*
2005, 2007 & 2009

Baritone, *Florida Atlantic University Chamber Singers European Tour*
2000; Prague & Austria

Performances with Artists

Rod Stewart, Aretha Franklin, Kenny Rogers, Johnny Mathis, Donna Summer, Steve and Eydie, Mariah Carey, Irish Tenors, Mannheim Steamroller, Robert Goulet, Shirley Jones, Bebe Neuwirth, Bernadette Peters, Queensryche, Dennis DeYoung of Styx, Bob McGrath, TransSiberian Orchestra, Alan Parsons Project, Anne Murray, Michael W. Smith, Steve Green, Larnelle Harris, Sandi Patty.

Recording Experience

- Played viola on the concert video recording for David Phelps’ “*Stories & Songs Volume 2*”.
- Played viola on the soundtrack for the ESPN series “*30 for 30*” episode “*The U*.”
- Played violin for “*Larnelle: Live in Nashville*” live concert recording in 2013.
- Played violin solos for David Hamilton Word Music project “*The Story*.”
- Played violin/viola on Playstation soundtracks & David Clydesdale 2012 projects.
- Sang in choir for Steve Green's 2012 album, “*Rest in the Wonder*.”

Workshops Attended

International Conductors Guild/Fort Wayne Philharmonic Conductor Workshop	2023
CCM Opera Bootcamp at University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory	2021
Cortona Sessions for New Music Virtual Summit	2020
Cascade Conducting Online Seminar	2020
Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music	2019
Conductor's Institute at the University of South Carolina	2018

Membership

American String Teachers Association
International Conductors Guild
League of American Orchestras

Honors

Finalist: *The American Prize in Conducting* (2022, 2023 and 2025)

Finalist: *The American Prize in Orchestral Performance* (2022, 2023 and 2025)