

## Joshua Shepherd, DMA

Conductor • Educator • Arts Leader

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

Dynamic conductor, educator, performer and arts leader with a strong record of **entrepreneurial initiative** and meaningful **community outreach**. Founded and currently directs a thriving community orchestra in Nashville—launched during the pandemic to provide inclusive access to live orchestral music and connect musicians and audiences across generational and cultural lines. Experienced in building partnerships with media outlets, concert venues, sponsors, board of directors and non-profit organizations to support institutional visibility and community impact. Extensive experience **conducting hybrid collegiate and community orchestras comprised of students, faculty and professional musicians**. While teaching in Miami, developed a deeply informed, equity-centered approach through sustained work with students from diverse and historically underserved backgrounds, including first-generation college students. Versatile conductor with experience across **symphonic, ballet, opera, film, musical theatre and pops repertoire, including works by underrepresented composers**, frequently collaborating with instrumental and vocal soloists. **Skilled recruiter** and mentor, committed to supporting student success through applied instruction, ensemble direction, and classroom teaching. **Three-time American Prize finalist in Conducting and Orchestral Performance**, with international touring, studio recording, and Broadway NY pit orchestra experience. Combines high artistic standards with warmth, humor, and a student-centered focus.

## Education

### University of Miami, Frost School of Music

2011

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

2004

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

2002

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

## Music Director/Conductor Experience

### Emporia State University

2024-2025

Director of Orchestras and Upper Strings

## Assistant Professor of Music

- *Administer and oversee all aspects of the Emporia State University String Area and Orchestra Program which include the Emporia Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra. Tasks include conducting all rehearsals and concerts, purchasing sheet music, editing/bowing parts, and maintaining regular communication with the ensemble members regarding short- and long-term goals. Other duties include managing the orchestra secretary, coordinating with venues regarding audio/visual details, hiring videographer and photographer for concerts, helping manage orchestra social media pages, securing news coverage of events, doing interviews with local media, securing concert sponsorships from local businesses, planning/executing annual Student Concert that reaches 600+ K-5 students, writing scripts/remarks for concerts, overseeing ESO Concerto Competition, fostering professional relationships with local music educators, and overseeing Stringfully (beginner strings program).*
- *Collaborate with the Core Curriculum, Recruitment and Scholarship Committees to advance music program goals.*
- *Teach Applied Violin and Viola lessons to students of varying ability and experience.*
- *Teach Theory 3 (covering chromatic harmony).*
- *Teach Music Appreciation to non-music major students.*

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

2020-Present

(formerly the Nashville Reading Orchestra)

Music Director and Conductor

- *Conduct each rehearsal and performance, speak with the audience, select repertoire, write program notes/scripts, manage personnel and music librarian tasks, edit concert videos, create social media presence, write press releases, secures donations and local news coverage of events, and develops relationships with the concert venues.*
- *Music performed: from standard symphonic, operatic, musical theatre, ballet, and pops repertoire, and lesser known works, often featuring talented instrumental and vocal soloists.*
- *Concerts conducted: Veterans Concert (Nov. 2020), Christmas Concert (Dec. 2020), Musical Theatre/Opera Selections Concert (Feb. 2021), Beethoven Celebration Concert (June 2021), Halloween Family Concert (Oct. 2021), Veterans Concert (Nov. 2021), Hooray for Hollywood Concert (May 2022), Harvest Jamboree Concert (Oct. 2022), Best of Broadway and Opera Concert (March 2023), Halloween Family Concert (Oct. 2023), Veterans Concert (Nov 2023).*

## **Guest and Assistant Conducting Experience**

### **Signature Symphony (Tulsa, OK)**

2025

Assistant Conductor

- *Will be serving as cover for the '4<sup>th</sup> on the 3<sup>rd</sup> – Stars Stripes and Symphony' July 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 '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)** 2022-2024  
Assistant Conductor
- *Will be serving as assistant/cover for the 2025 Summer Pops Concert.*
  - *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)** 2022-2023  
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 'Bows' 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

### **Teaching, Lecturing and Adjudicating Experience**

- KSHSAA State Large Group Festival (Kansas)** 2025  
Adjudicator
- *Served as an adjudicator for large ensemble performances at the state level.*
- KSHSAA Regional Solos & Small Ensembles Festival 2 (Topeka, KS area)** 2025  
Adjudicator
- *Served as an adjudicator for solo and small ensemble performances at the regional level.*
- KSHSAA Regional Solos & Small Ensembles Festival 1 (Wichita, KS area)** 2025  
Adjudicator
- *Served as an adjudicator for solo and small ensemble performances at the regional level.*
- Junction City High School** 2024  
Clinician
- *Worked with the school's orchestras on repertoire they were preparing for an upcoming concert.*

- Belmont University** 2022  
Adjunct Music Instructor
- *Taught undergraduate theory course.*
- Union University** 2021-2024  
Adjunct Music Instructor
- *Co-taught a string repertoire course, taught applied studio lessons, prepared students for recitals, coached chamber ensemble, and served as viola section leader.*
- 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 Worshiping 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.*
- 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.*

## **Performance Experience**

### **Orchestral**

Section Violin, Murfreesboro Symphony Orchestra, 2011-2018; Symphony of the Americas, 2010-2011

Section Viola, Light Opera Theatre of Sacramento, 2019; Tennessee Philharmonic 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, 2002-2004

Section Viola/Violin, Nashville Praise Symphony, 2011-2024; Paducah Symphony Orchestra, 2011-2024; Klezmer Company Orchestra, 2010-2018; Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra, 2006-2008; Ohio Light Opera, 2006; Craig Turley Orchestras, 2004-2008

Section Violin and Viola Substitute, Bryan Symphony 2023; Jackson Symphony 2021-2024; Shoals Symphony Orchestra, 2014-2024; Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, 2011-2014; 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**

International Conductors Guild  
League of American Orchestras

## **Honors**

Finalist: The American Prize in Conducting-community/school orchestra (2022, 2023 and 2025)  
Finalist: The American Prize in Orchestral Performance (2022, 2023 and 2025)