

Teachers & Bios

Mark Davis - Banjo, Guitar, Mandolin & Violin



"I love every kind of music and I love to teach my students what THEY want to learn."
Mark Davis is a talented multi-instrumentalist who has been teaching and performing in the Fredericksburg area for more than thirty years. Trained on violin from the age of eight Mark has performed Classical Music, Celtic, Old Time, Bluegrass, Country, Gospel, Bluegrass and Rock Music.

Mark tailors lessons to the abilities and musical interests of the individual student with an emphasis on music theory and history. He has taught students of all ages from three to eighty three and enjoys working with homeschoolers and adults.

Lessons are available for Violin, Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo, Electric Bass, Ukulele, Beginner Piano and Theremin. Vocal and Performance Coaching are provided with music lessons.

James Forry - Cello

James Forry is the current orchestra director of Massaponax High School and Thornburg Middle School in Spotsylvania County Schools. He grew up in York, Pennsylvania and started the cello at age eight. He has studied cello extensively with David Diehl and also at West Virginia University with William Skidmore. James graduated from West Virginia University Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Music Education. He has previously taught in Stafford County (2006 - 2011) directing both Mountain View High School and A.G. Wright Middle School. James has also taught at Randolph-Macon College as their adjunct cello professor from 2007-2011, as well as the University of Mary Washington (2011-2018).

James is a current Fredericksburg, Virginia resident and remains actively involved with performing arts at all levels. James performs with the Piedmont Symphony Orchestra serving as Principal Cellist in Warrenton, VA, and is a core member of the Atoka String Quartet. James has also had the privilege of guest conducting the All County Orchestra for Fauquier County Schools in spring 2019.

In addition to the aforementioned details, James also does various freelancing around the Fredericksburg, Warrenton, Charlottesville, Northern VA, and Washington D.C. areas including adjudications, quartets, pit orchestras, weddings, and clinics. James also holds a small private lesson studio.



Rob Leong, Owner - Violin & Viola

Rob Leong is a violinist and violist from Fredericksburg, Virginia. He attended West Virginia University for his undergraduate in violin performance and studied under Dr. Mikylah Myers, and in 2021, he graduated from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music for his masters in viola performance where he was in the studio of Mark Holloway.

Rob currently works at the WM Mason II Violin shop as a repairman and plays viola in the Fredericksburg Symphony; through both, he participates in outreach programs with public schools in the surrounding counties where he assists the students through sectionals. Rob also performs on violin and viola regularly with the Melodious Strings Studio.



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Faith Roberts - Voice & Piano



Faith Roberts is a vocalist and classically trained pianist. Originally from northeastern PA, she earned a B.S. in Music Education and a B.A. in Vocal Performance from Lebanon Valley College (LVC) in 2022. Mrs. Roberts currently directs four choirs and teaches a music theory course at Spotsylvania High School. Faith has also held positions as Music Director, Pit Conductor, and keyboardist for various musicals including Little Shop of Horrors, Godspell, and Once on This Island.

She has been an active worship leader in her church, singing both traditional and gospel styles. She has also performed solo recitals at LVC, played keyboard and vocals in her past funk band, and performed with her college choir at Carnegie Hall.

In her free time, Faith enjoys cooking new recipes, learning jazz, and traveling. Every day is a new opportunity!

Ashley Slemp - Dance

Ashley is a seasoned dance educator with over two decades of experience, specializing in tap and ballet.

My love for dance began at age four in Southwest Virginia. From competing across the country in middle school to earning a Dance Minor in college, dance has always been a central part of my life. I had the privilege of performing with companies like the Robert Ivey Ballet and the Joni Rodman Dance Theatre, experiences that deepened my understanding of both technical precision and artistic expression.

One of my most cherished memories is performing as Toto in a professional production of The Wizard of Oz at age 10. While I may have been the youngest in the cast, that experience taught me the importance of attention to detail and a whole lot of grit!

After teaching dance in Okinawa, Japan, I returned to Virginia and have been teaching in the Fredericksburg area for over a decade. I am proud to have begun a local chapter of Darby's Dancers, a non-profit that brings the joy of dance to children with special needs. Today, I'm just as much a student as I am a teacher, always seeking to learn more about the history and anatomy behind the movement. I can't wait to share that passion with you and help you find your own joy in dance.



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Maddy Southall - Cello & Double Bass



Madeline Southall holds a Bachelors of Music in cello performance from Liberty University and a Masters of Music in cello performance from Shenandoah Conservatory where she studied under renowned cellist and performer, Julian Schwarz. During her studies she received multiple awards including “String Player of the Year” and “Orchestra Member of the Year” as well as a full Graduate Assistantship to Shenandoah Conservatory.

Madeline is not only a passionate musician and performer but a dedicated teacher. She has been a member of faculty and staff for multiple summer music programs including the James Players Summer Chamber Music Camp for whom she was a Chamber Music Coach and fellow, collaborating with string players from Oklahoma State University and giving multiple chamber performances. She was an integral member of the Heifetz International Summer Music Institute’s “Program for the Exceptionally Gifted” in Staunton, Virginia for both the 2018 and 2019 seasons.

As head resident advisor for virtuoso string players ages 9-14 she supervised practice, rehearsals, and performances by some of the most gifted young artists in the United States, Canada, China, and South Korea. Madeline is currently a member of the Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra and has performed with a variety of ensembles in Virginia including the James Chamber Orchestra, Danville Symphony Orchestra, Chesapeake Symphony Orchestra, Alluvion Stage Company, and the Charlottesville Ballet, among many others.

She is an active chamber musician and regularly performs for events along the east coast as cellist for the Melodious String Quartet. Madeline currently teaches private studios in Fredericksburg, and Burke, Virginia.

Student Interns

Victoria Santos, Student Intern - Violin & Viola

Victoria has been playing the violin for several years. She is presently a member of the Knights Orchestra at Spotsylvania High School and serves as their concertmaster. She is also an active member of the Tri-M Honors Society and has won the “Master Musician” award for her school.

Victoria has been the one of the first students from Spotsylvania High School to be accepted into the North Central Senior Regional Orchestra and to audition for the All-Virginia State Orchestra. She has also participated in the Spotsylvania All-County Orchestra as the associate concertmaster.

Victoria has performed pre-concerts for the Fredericksburg Symphony Orchestra and provided music for local weddings, memorial services, and various private events. She participated in Solo & Ensemble, performing as both a soloist and the first violinist in a trio performance, and was awarded with superior ratings. She is currently studying to become a luthier under the direction of Christina Wan at Fredericksburg Violins and plans to continue with music in her future.

