

STAHR Graduation Assessors 2017

Alexander Croxton

Cello Teacher
SAA Member
New York, NY

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Alex Croxton began his cello studies at the age of twelve. Alex went on to continue his studies at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland and Conservatory of Music at SUNY Purchase. Alex has received awards from the Atlanta Music Club, American String Teachers' Association and Peabody Career Grant. Alex served as an Artist in Residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts Chamber Music Residency as well as Assistant Principal of the Maryland Symphony. As a chamber musician, Alex has studied with musicians such as Leon Fleisher, Laurence Lesser and Lorand Fenyves. A winner of the Artists International Special Presentation Award, Alex made his Carnegie/Weill Hall debut to a sold out audience in April of 2008.



As a mentor to young musicians, Alex has studied Suzuki pedagogy with Pamela Devenport, Sally Gross, Tanya Carey, Gilda Barston and Carey Cheney and has taught at workshops and institutes in New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Washington D.C, Maryland, Kentucky, Alabama, Texas, Utah, Massachusetts and Georgia. Alex is a faculty member at the Mannes College The New School for Music, Special Music School and The School for Strings, NYC.

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Samara Humbert-Hughes

Viola / Violin Teacher
SAA Member
Columbia, SC

Dr. Samara Humbert-Hughes relocated in August 2014 to Columbia, SC to join the Suzuki Strings Program at the University of South Carolina and currently serves as its Director.



Prior to moving to SC, Dr. Humbert-Hughes lived in England with her husband from June 2011 to August 2014 where she taught private and group class lessons with the Cambridge Suzuki Groups and at Royal Air Force Mildenhall. While in England Dr. Humbert-Hughes also performed with the Cambridge Philharmonic and the East Anglia Chamber Orchestra.

Before living in England, Dr. Humbert-Hughes taught at the Centenary Suzuki School at Centenary College in Shreveport, LA from 2007-2011 and served as its Acting Director from 2009-2011. During her time in Louisiana, she was also an active performer on viola and violin with the Shreveport Symphony, the Texarkana Symphony, the Longview Symphony, and the Shreveport Opera Orchestra. Prior to living in Louisiana, Dr. Humbert-Hughes was actively teaching and performing in Eugene, OR, where she received her Master of Music & Doctorate of Musical Arts with a Supporting Area in String Pedagogy. Dr. Humbert-Hughes also holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Arizona State University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

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Colleen Fitzgerald

Violin / ECE Teacher
SAA Member
Milwaukee, WI

Ms. Colleen Fitzgerald, named executive director of the Barcel Suzuki String Academy in 2010, currently teaches private and group violin lessons and Suzuki Early Childhood Education classes at BSSA. In 2006, Ms. Fitzgerald received the Certificate of Excellence in Studio Teaching from the Civic Music Association of Milwaukee. Throughout the year, she is a guest clinician at Suzuki weekend workshops throughout the Midwest and she adjudicates at the National Federation of Music Club auditions. During the summers, Ms. Fitzgerald has been a clinician at the Louisville Suzuki Institute-Kentucky, Suzuki Music Columbus Suzuki Institute-Ohio, Montana Suzuki Strings Institute-Montana and the American Suzuki Institute-Wisconsin. Besides teaching, Ms. Fitzgerald frequently performs as a violin soloist, a member of a string trio for weddings and church services as well as plays handbells in her church's handbell choir.

Ms. Fitzgerald began Suzuki violin lessons at 6 years old and at 8 years old began 10 years of studies with Suzuki Teacher Trainer Joan Rooney. In 1996, she graduated from the University of Evansville earning a Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance with Suzuki Pedagogy with Professor Carol Dallinger. Colleen Fitzgerald earned her Masters of Arts in Teaching from Cardinal Stritch University in 2010. She has also received supplemental Suzuki teacher training at the American Suzuki Institute in Stevens Point, WI with Kay Collier-McLaughlin, Ed Kreitman, Tom Wermuth, and Alice Joy Lewis and acquired her Early Childhood Education training under Suzuki ECE Trainer, Dorothy Jones. Ms. Fitzgerald is a Suzuki Association of the Americas registered Suzuki violin and ECE instructor.

