

Jacque Crema

City of Residence: Milwaukee

Instrument: String Bass

How long have you been with Concord? About 5-8 years in the 90's, and then again for the past 5 years.

What is your earliest musical memory? Being three-years-old and dancing around my parents; living room to a Kansas record. I collapsed on the floor in exhaustion and bliss and looked up at the ceiling. It was at that moment that I said to myself that I wanted to spend my life being a musician, somehow.



What got you interested in music, and what was your involvement growing up? During my last year of elementary school, a man showed up to my classroom with a bass guitar. He asked if there were any kids who wanted to play it when they went to junior high school. I immediately said yes! He told us to sign up for LAB Orchestra for the following year. I did. In September I walked into my new class, and they told me that I was going to be playing this huge string bass. I asked where the bass guitar was, and they said I would learn that at the end of the school year. I had to learn upright bass first (I was tricked). Thus began my life as a classical musician!

Why do you perform with Concord? Wonderful group of people to know and play music with.

What has been the high point of your involvement with Concord? There have been many high points! I love being able to play music from many different genres. Few orchestras allow that flexibility.

What do you do for a living? I am both a string teacher for Milwaukee Public Schools and an Acupuncturist/Herbalist.

Tell us about your family. Aside from my husband and immediate family, I have 350 kids that I teach each week in public schools. I feel like their "String Mom!"

What are your hobbies besides practicing and playing? Yoga, meditation, hiking, weaving, and world travel.

What is your favorite recording? When I was around 8 years old, I walked into an antique store with my mother. The shop owner was playing a record of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. I ran up to the counter and asked what it was because I had never heard such beautiful music before. He pulled out the album cover; it had \$2 marked on it and was for sale. I took a few weeks worth of allowance (this was the early 80's) and slapped it down on the counter. Mine!

Who is your favorite composer? It is a fine line between Bach and Vivaldi.

What is something most people don't know about you? I play music in my sleep, much to the dislike of my husband. Instead of sleepwalking, I do scales and etudes (left hand only, no bowing!).

What is your advice for kids who are interested in music? Music is life! Everything in creation has a vibration. You can add to it with your own sounds made on an instrument. It is one of the best opportunities you will have in this life time.