



Musician Profile: David A. Rasmussen

City/Town of Residence: Glendale

Instrument: Violin, Viola, Piano

How long have you been with Concord? I subbed some under Janet before I joined under Jamin.

What is your earliest musical memory? Crawling at age 3 under mom's -- now my -- Sohmer baby grand as mom played Chopin etudes.

What got you interested in music, and what was your involvement growing up? I had cardio-pulmonary challenges all my life but was drawn to the great music program in Milwaukee Public Schools from third grade on, I was involved in Music for Youth and was the MPS All City Orchestra concertmaster under Bernard Stepner. I took private lessons with the same teacher as Tim Klabunde, but he kept practicing! Also, mom taught MPS grade school piano.

Why do you perform with Concord? We practice a mile from my house and with friends I've known since college, including Jamin -- whom I met playing 17 years of UWM's Viennese Balls.

What has been the high point of your involvement with Concord? My high point happened when Jamin accepted my request to have Dayvin Hallmon from the Black Diaspora Orchestra address the CCO to collect more players for BDSO's 2nd Annual Memorial Concert for Missing and Deported Children. Jamin offered Dayvin Asst Conductorship and the concert will be held on Sunday, December 18th at the Central United Methodist Church.

What do you do for a living? I retired in February of 2020 after 35 year in IT at UW-Milwaukee.

Tell us about your family? My immediate family is my brother Jim, his wife Charlotte, and daughter Anya who teaches piano to the kids she sits for. But we are descendants of Luka Sorkocevic, a contemporary of Haydn from Ragusa.

What are your hobbies besides practicing and playing? Who said practicing was a hobby?! I've alluded to Austrian composer blood and playing Strauss waltzes for 20 years drew me to learn to become an accomplished dance lead. The photo above has me waltzing with my Ukrainian cultural and ballroom friend, Larysa.

What is your favorite recording? I'm actually hoping some day to hear Frank Almond on his Fender guitar in his brother's rock band.

Who is your favorite composer? There are many. I recently led the Schubert cello quintet; I am

working on the Bruch Romance for Viola; and last performed Romanza Andaluza, a Spanish Dance of Sarasate, with a guitar student of Rene Izqueirido from UWM.

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I'm a recorded artist for the Silvertrust family. We sight read one-minute segments of movements of works that buyers can listen to before purchase.

What is your advice for kids who are interested in music? Have parents who support funding of public school music programs.