

## **Name: Julie Ford**

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**City/Town of Residence:** Pewaukee, WI

**Instrument:** cello

**How long have you been with Concord?** This is my 7<sup>th</sup> season

**What is your earliest musical memory?** Singing at the piano with my Mom



**What got you interested in music, and what was your involvement growing up?** I grew up in a very musical family. My parents were both wonderful singers, mom played piano, and my grandma played the violin and piano. There was always singing in our house, and in the car on road trips, and my parents loved playing their favorite records – Broadway show tunes and popular singers of the 60s like Peggy Lee, Tony Bennett, and Barbra Streisand. I also loved the beautiful hymns and choir music I heard at church every Sunday. One of my earliest memories is of my grandma taking me to the Seattle Symphony when I was about four years old. A string quartet from the Symphony also came and played for my kindergarten class and that is a very vivid memory. I started piano lessons at age six, and always sang in my school and church choirs. In 5th grade I went to a music education assembly at my public school intending to play the clarinet -- and heard the cello's voice for the first time. I instantly fell in love and said to my mom, "I want to play that!" I started lessons right away and played in school and youth orchestras from that time on, through high school and college.

**Why do you perform with Concord?** Being able to play with a dedicated group such as Concord is one of the joys of my life. It is such a thrill to play beautiful classical music, to give the gift of music to the audience, and to be a part of such awe-inspiring musical moments.

**What has been the high point of your involvement with Concord?** We have performed with many very gifted soloists, but the concert that stands out is playing pieces from "Schindler's List" in 2016 with soloist John Patek. I thought there were some very special and moving moments in that concert.

**What do you do for a living?** I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice in Milwaukee.

**Tell us about your family?** My wonderful husband of 40 years, Jay, comes to all of our concerts and has always supported me in my musical endeavors. He is senior pastor at Galilee Lutheran Church in Pewaukee. We have two grown children who are both musicians. Our daughter

Natalie is an actress and singer and has performed in musical theater in Milwaukee and Chicago, and also teaches voice. Her husband Andy has also been a cellist with Concord and introduced me to the orchestra, so I thank him for that! Our son Stephen is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist and will soon be joining us here in Wisconsin from California. We have three beautiful grandchildren: Ella, 13; Amelia, 5; and John, 2.

**What are your hobbies besides practicing and playing?** I enjoy travel, reading great books, and biking.

**What is your favorite recording?** San Francisco Symphony's recording of Mahler's Fifth Symphony conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas.

**Who is your favorite composer?** It's hard to choose, but I would have to say Johann Sebastian Bach.

**What is one thing most people don't know about you?** My life is pretty much an open book, so I don't think there are many things that people close to me don't know!

**What is your advice for kids who are interested in music?** Keep at it. Practice, practice, practice even if you don't feel like it! Never stop learning, and play as much as you can.