

Megan Kinneberg

City of Residence: Milwaukee

Instrument: Violin

How long have you been with Concord? I began playing with Concord in fall of 2015 so this is my second season with Concord Chamber Orchestra.

What is your earliest musical memory? Playing my violin while standing on a pizza box with an outline of where my feet should go while my mom adjusted my bow hold.



What got you interested in music, and what was your involvement growing up? My mom is an orchestra teacher and plays the violin. I would listen to her practice when I was little and when I was 4½ years old I asked her to teach me. I have been playing ever since! After several years of studying with my mom, I began studying with Julia Persitz and was her student for 10 years. She coached me through the great solo violin repertoire, always pushing me to the next level. She taught me discipline, musicality, expression and shaped me into the violinist I am today.

I also played for many years with the Minnesota Youth Symphonies where Manny Laureano gave me the opportunity to play great works like Respighi's *Pines of Rome*, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* and Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony. In high school, I also played in the pit orchestra under Mark Gitch's direction – my favorite performance was "The Secret Garden."

My mom, Julia Persitz, Manny Laureano and Mark Gitch, gave me so many opportunities to play great music and develop as a musician that, while growing up, I formed the basis for a lifelong love of music. I have always found my community and closest friends through music. In college, I played at Irish sessions and performed with the UW-Madison Symphony orchestra. When I moved to Milwaukee I was looking for another group where I could meet people who shared my common passion. I was so excited to find Concord and feel welcomed. I found my music community in Milwaukee and am so grateful to continue playing great music with other people who love music for the joy of playing.

Why do you perform with Concord? I love performing chamber music with other people who are passionate about playing. Playing the violin has been a lifelong passion and rehearsals are my escape during the week when I can get lost in the music and in the art of making music with others.

What has been the high point of your involvement with Concord? I loved performing the Nutcracker Suite at the Basilica of St. Josaphat. I invited several of my friends who hadn't seen me perform before and some had never been to a chamber orchestra concert and they loved the

performance! I really enjoy sharing great classical music with the community, especially people who have never experienced classical music live.

What do you do for a living? I'm a Production Value Stream Leader at GE Healthcare. I lead a production team that manufactures x-ray tubes for CT systems.

What are your hobbies besides practicing and playing? I actively volunteer with [Destination Imagination](#), a global non-profit organization that teaches students k-12 teamwork, creative problem solving, and leadership skills through hands-on STEM and arts activities and challenges. I have been a judge at the Global Final Competition for the last seven years and also participate on the writing team that creates many of the challenges the students solve. Having participated in this program as a student, I'm passionate about volunteering and giving back to the program that inspired me to become an engineer.

What is your favorite recording? Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D recorded by Itzhak Perlman.

What is your advice for kids who are interested in music? Keep playing! You will make some of your best friends through your involvement in music, and will continue meeting cool people your entire life as you continue to play.