

**Name: Martin St.
Maurice**

City/Town of Residence: Glendale

Instrument: Violin

**How long have you been with Concord?
9 years**



What got you interested in music, and what was your involvement growing up? My parents started me on the violin at 3 years old. I was trained by the Suzuki method and played the twinkle twinkle little star variations for well over a year I am told. By 5, my parents were relieved that I'd finally moved slightly past twinkle twinkle but resolved not to start my younger brother on the violin until he was at least 7 or 8. Playing the violin has been a part of my life as long as I can remember. I played violin in orchestras, busking groups, bands and school productions as a teenager and through college. I always enjoyed playing with a group much more than I ever enjoyed playing as a soloist.

Why do you perform with Concord? There are many reasons I perform with Concord. I love playing symphonic music and I consider myself lucky to play in a group with so many talented musicians. The weekly rehearsals and many concerts allow me to focus my thoughts and energy on playing great music. At those times, all the other noise and stresses of my day just completely fade away. I come back from rehearsals refreshed and re-energized. It's very therapeutic!

What has been the high point of your involvement with Concord? There have been many memorable performances so I'll choose a recent one. Playing the Elgar E minor Cello Concerto with Viktor Brusubardis last season was thrilling. I've long loved that piece of music and playing it with such a skilled and dynamic soloist was truly memorable.

What do you do for a living? I'm a professor of biological sciences at Marquette University. I teach and conduct research in biochemistry.

Tell us about your family? My wife Amanda and I live in Glendale with my mother in law (Pam), son (Sebastien, 6) and daughter (Mira, 4). My eldest daughter (Danika, 16) lives in Madison but visits us often and, gulp, is now driving and beginning to think seriously about what to study in college.

What are your hobbies besides practicing and playing? I've gotten into running these past few years. I'm very much an amateur runner but am gearing up to run my first half-marathon in the fall.

What is your favorite recording? It's tough to point to a single favorite recording. I listen to too many different types and styles of music to have any single favorite recording. I will say that I played Schubert's Symphony number 9 "The Great" as a teenager and, for many reasons, it left a lasting impression. I'm anxiously awaiting the opportunity to play it again with Concord!

Who is your favorite composer? It's tough to pick a favorite and it changes all the time. I am more fond of the romantic period composers and the impressionists.

What is one thing most people don't know about you? In graduate school, I lived in Halifax Nova Scotia on the east coast of Canada. I found myself playing fiddle in a pretty good little Irish band. I'd spend my days in the research lab and my nights playing fiddle in the bars. I still love playing the Irish style fiddle and try to find time to play in Irish sessions when I can.

What is your advice for kids who are interested in music? Follow your interests and passion. Explore different styles, join different ensembles, play in many groups. Try everything. Music is best when it's free of rules and restrictions and created, played and enjoyed in the company of others.