



## Jacki Thering

**City/Town of Residence:** New Berlin

**Instrument:** Violin

**How long have you been with Concord?** I started during the 2012-13 season when I moved to the area, so this is my fourth season with the CCO. Thanks to Art Wasserman (former cellist with the CCO) for suggesting that I contact Jamin about playing with the orchestra when he heard I'd be teaching in the Milwaukee area.

**What is your earliest musical memory?** Playing this one piano duet with my grandpa (which he taught to all his grandchildren), hearing my mom play oboe in the Oregon Community Band and Edgewood Chamber Orchestra, conducting along to a recording of Beethoven overtures.

**What got you interested in music, and what was your involvement growing up?** I've always been interested and involved in music. I started taking piano lessons in second grade and began violin in fourth grade through my school orchestra program. I've studied with a lot of great teachers: my violin teacher through high school was Rictor Noren, and my orchestra teachers at school were Maggie Fenske and Leyla Sanyer. In 2010 I graduated from UW-Oshkosh with degrees in violin performance and music education as a student of Klara Fenyö Bahcall (violin) and Dr. Eli Kalman (piano). And then I went on to earn my master's degree in violin performance at Butler University, studying with Dr. Davis Brooks.

**Why do you perform with Concord?** Once I graduated from college and went out in the "real world," I knew I'd need a group to rehearse and perform with—a regular time each week dedicated to playing the violin. It's nice to have that time carved out each week playing great music.

**What has been the high point of your involvement with Concord?** It's been fun learning and performing all these pieces I'd always wanted to play but hadn't had a chance to: Beethoven's 3rd Symphony, Dvorak's *New World Symphony*, Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*, Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, etc. I also really enjoyed playing the Sousa marches and the Armed Forces Salute at the summer concerts. Those are pieces you hear all the time at band concerts but don't often perform as a string player.

**What do you do for a living?** I teach 5th and 6th grade orchestra at Elmwood and Orchard Lane Elementary Schools in New Berlin. I also accompany the choir at St. Luke Catholic Church in Brookfield.

**Tell us about your family?** I'm the oldest of four, and we all took piano and violin or cello lessons growing up. My youngest [brother](#) is a jazz pianist in La Crosse. My mom plays oboe, and my dad took piano lessons through high school and still plays Joplin rags once in a while. My grandma sings in her church choir, and my family regularly comes to Concord concerts. My cat hates music, and she meows sadly and hides under the bed when she hears me open my violin case.

**What are your hobbies besides practicing and playing?** I'm really interested in genealogy, and I've been working on my family tree since I was in high school. I'm up to over 14,000 people on my family tree! A few summers ago my grandma, sister, and I traveled to Germany and saw towns where some of my ancestors came from. The highlight was visiting a church in Selm, Germany that is over 1,000 years old and is where my great-great-great-great-great grandparents were married. I also just started a [blog](#) where I share teaching ideas.

**What is your favorite recording?** *The Brahms Hungarian Dances and Waltzes* played by Idil Beret.

**Who is your favorite composer?** Hard to choose, but probably Bach.

**What is one thing most people don't know about you?** I played the organ at the Vatican when the Butler music department traveled to Greece and Italy over spring break. I'm not really an organist, but I was accompanying the choir and they got to sing for a mass at St. Peter's Basilica and I played for them.

**What is your advice for kids who are interested in music?** Find a way to stay involved with music throughout middle and high school. Kids are being pulled in a lot of different directions when it comes to selecting electives for school and balancing all their activities outside of school. You'll be glad to have that time each day in your music class. Attend concerts whenever you get a chance! It's such a different experience hearing music performed live in person compared to listening to a recording or watching a video. It's a great way to get exposed to new pieces and styles and composers and performers too. There's always a Concord Chamber Orchestra concert coming up soon!