

SEVEN:
RESEARCH / CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Candidate Statement – Research and Creative Scholarship

To further develop as an artist teacher and contribute to the culture of Texas Tech University, I take part in collaborations that build meaningful connections between people and music. I believe that it is important to stay active as an artist while setting a professional example for my students by performing at the highest level. I am engaged in orchestra, chamber, and solo performances nationwide. I have developed and expanded the musical boundaries of viola performance through commissions and diverse partnerships with other artists.

In 2015, I was appointed viola faculty mentor at the National Music Festival in Chestertown, Maryland. I performed chamber and orchestral music with both faculty and students. I recruited and worked with students from universities throughout the country including the University of Michigan, Rice University, and Indiana University.

As the assistant principal violist of the Colorado Music Festival in Boulder, Colorado, I perform alongside musicians from orchestras such as the St. Louis, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Antonio Symphonies. Performing these concerts with first-rate, high profile professional symphony musicians provides me with the experience to improve and enhance my teaching and coaching for the music students at TTU and in the Lubbock Symphony.

I am the founding violist and board member of The Atlantic Chamber Ensemble (ACE) in Richmond, VA. ACE is dedicated to making classical music relevant to the 21st century audience by providing a framework for authentic human experiences of the art. ACE received an American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers award for Adventurous Programming in 2014. ACE received this nationally recognized accolade because of a commission consortium that I created. Our next project has received a \$30,000 grant from the Blank Foundation. Inspired and energized by ACE, I bring a sense of exploration and excitement to my recitals and the faculty chamber series at Texas Tech.

I continue to participate in creative projects that are relevant to modern society. With the use of TTU start-up funds, I commissioned several new works. I premiered these works in our own Hemmle Recital Hall as well as Amsterdam, NL and the Music By Women Festival. I strongly believe that collaboration between performers and composers is essential to the longevity and advancement of music as an art form. I am an advocate for new music and believe that classical music will thrive if instrumentalists are able to expand their musical language and explore various styles of expression. As a further example of this, I collaborated with the TTU Symphony Orchestra as the second artist to perform Pulitzer Prize Winner Jennifer Higdon's "Concerto for Viola."

In 2014 and 2017, I applied for and was awarded residencies at the Avaloch Farm Music Institute. This environment provided me with the time and space to work in depth on new repertoire, prepare for concerts, and intensely rehearse with pianist Eliza Ching and duo partner, Natasha Farny. Afterwards, I came back to TTU with creative energy to share with my students.

At the Lake George Music Festival in Upstate New York, I performed with some of the top musicians from New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. A highlight of this was performing as principal violist in an orchestra alongside David Kim, concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Staying connected with vibrant performers gives me insight into sounds and techniques of the most advanced and emerging musicians in my field.

I will continue to pursue activities like this throughout my career. In the next five to ten years, I plan to apply for grants to commission and premiere new works from Harvard's Fromm Foundation, The Barlow Endowment, and New Music USA, among others. I will also continue performing in the chamber music organizations and summer music festivals listed above. I will expand my summer guest-artist engagements to national and international festivals. These activities are inherent to my nature as a performing artist and they inform my teaching and inspire my students at Texas Tech University.