

## Maureen O'Leary

With her daughter, Colleen, Maureen's Reel Irish Dancing teach step dancing in Toronto and Whitby, Irish ceili and set dancing in Toronto, Whitby and Mississauga, as well as performing all over Ontario almost every weekend. Maureen loves to come out and dance herself. Maureen and Colleen have even been spotted doing the Irish jive on occasion!

Maureen believes dancing should be fun and it shows when you see her students!

## Laura Nerenberg



Montreal native, Laura Nerenberg, started playing the violin at 3 and the piano at 7. As a classically trained violinist, Laura has performed in orchestral and chamber music roles from Newfoundland to California to Tanzania. As a jazz musician, Laura received her early, informal training from her father, a mostly self-taught jazz pianist. She furthered her jazz studies at the Henry Mancini Institute and at Ottawa's JazzWorks camp. She is a founding member of the Ottawa Jazz Orchestra and has performed twice at the NAC's Fourth Stage as part of no-holds-barred, all-improvisation concerts. Laura has also performed at the Ottawa International Jazz Festival with this ensemble. Laura married a tin whistle

player, and was thus introduced to the immense richness of Celtic music. Laura blends her musical influences into a unique style, expressing a voice that ranges from deeply intimate to furious to cheeky.

Laura is active in Ottawa's classical music scene as a freelance violinist. She is a founding member of Gatineau, Quebec's premier chamber music group: Ensemble Prisme, and also helped found the Ottawa Baroque Consort, an early music ensemble. As an orchestral player, Laura has performed widely in the Ottawa area as a freelancer and regular member of various groups. She was a member of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra as assistant concertmaster and principal second violin from 2000-2011. She was also principal second violin of the now-defunct, Orchestre des concerts symphoniques de Gatineau.

Laura shares her passion for the violin with a lively group of students, aged 4-17. The youngest of these is Laura's own daughter, who, at the ripe age of 6, gleefully improvises her own songs on the piano and the violin. For a third consecutive year, she and a group of students performed as part of the Ottawa Chamber Music Society's Family Music Fair in May, 2009. They also make regular appearances at the Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre and at local retirement homes. As a Suzuki Violin Teacher, she is sought after to teach at summer institutes and workshops year-round in New Hampshire, Edmonton, Montreal, Quebec City, Boston and beyond. She loves working with students of all ages and levels, sharing her enthusiasm for music and learning.

## Margot Jewell



Margot Jewell enjoys working with children from ages three to eighteen. Based in Toronto, she teaches both violin and viola in private and ensemble/repertoire classes following the premise of Talent Education (Suzuki Method). Several of her students have been RCM gold or silver medalists and have competed at the provincial level of the CFMF. As the director of Etobicoke Suzuki Music Ms. Jewell oversees and teaches at the weekly group activities of orchestras, string quartets, theory and repertoire classes, baby and music and movement classes, and community performances.

Margot's teachers included Marta Hidy, McMaster University; Milan Vitek, Czech String Quartet; and Victor Martin, University of Toronto. Her Baroque training was with Jeanne Lamon and Kevin Mallon. She was most influenced by her three months of study with Shinichi Suzuki at the Talent Education Institute, Matsumoto, Japan.

Ms. Jewell has enjoyed contributing as a clinician and speaker at Suzuki Institutes and workshops in locations across Canada. She is a presenter at the Suzuki Association of the

Americas conferences, for the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program in the US and Canada, and at Suzuki Association of Ontario conferences. In addition to leading master classes on topics such as "Performing Bach Solo Sonatas and Partitas," she has given numerous educational sessions for the parents of music students. In the summers she is an active clinician at Canadian music camps and Suzuki Institutes.

An active adjudicator for many years, Ms. Jewell has worked with students in competitive and non-competitive festivals across Canada, sponsored by Kiwanis clubs, The Royal Conservatory, Suzuki groups, and ORMTA, among others. She has served as a judge at the Manitoba Provincial Finals. Ms. Jewell has been a member of the RCM College of Examiners since 2004. Known for her perceptive commentaries and strong connection with students, she strives to encourage each performer and to support the efforts of local teachers.

Margot Jewell has been an active performer with orchestras such as the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Niagara Symphony Orchestra, Opera York, and Talisker Players. A specialist on original instruments, she also performed on Baroque violin with the Te Deum Baroque Orchestra and the Aradia Baroque Ensemble, with whom she made recordings for Naxos records.

In 1982 Ms. Jewell was a founder of Etobicoke Suzuki Music and has served as their coordinator, treasurer, and artistic director. As director she works with an administrator and co-director as well as the faculty of eleven teachers to further the vision of talent education--observing and mentoring new teachers, ensuring standards of excellence in the student body, resolving parent/teacher issues, and overseeing special events and the school's ongoing programs. Previously she acted as the coordinator for the Hamilton Suzuki School. Margot has held the positions of board member, treasurer, and secretary at the Suzuki Association of Ontario. She twice served on the conference planning team of the Suzuki Association of the Americas and is currently a board member. Ms. Jewell is the strings specialist for The Conservatory, involved in the training and development of examiners, and is a reviewer of the current RCM violin syllabus. She also serves on the board/organizing committees of two music festivals. Her articles have been published in journals of the SAA, SAO, The Royal Conservatory, Etobicoke Suzuki Music, and the United Church of Canada, as well as in SNAP magazine and the Guardian newspaper.

## **Professional Affiliations**

- Suzuki Association of the Americas
- Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators' Association
- Suzuki Association of Ontario