

# Jose Rocha, Cello



Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: I play the cello

Q: When and how did you get started in music?

A: I started playing piano and singing in a choir when I was 4 and entered a music conservatoire shortly after; there I started the cello and playing in the orchestra.

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: 15 years ago

Q: Educational background?

A: I earned my bachelor and master of music in cello performance from the University of Florida and a Doctor of Music degree in cello performance from the University of Houston.

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: Jose Hernandez Gama, he was my first piano teacher and choir director. I studied with him for almost ten years and he was always jovial and demanding at the same time. As I look back it amazes me how fortunate I was, since he is considered one of the most distinguished choral directors and composers of the twentieth century in Mexico

Q: What is your "day job?"

A: I am orchestra director at Johnston Middle School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: I am an avid cyclist...I'm not fast, but what I lack in speed I make up with enthusiasm.

Q: Favorite music?

A: I listen to everything.