

# Matt Detrick, Concertmaster and Violin



Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: I play the violin and piano (although I haven't "tickled the ivories" in quite a while).

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

A: My mother is also a violinist and music teacher, and she started my brothers and me on the violin at the ripe age of three. She tells stories of how she used to coax me to practice with Fruit Roll-Ups and Superman cartoons. I'm glad it worked! I began playing with the my school orchestras and then the local symphony, the York Symphony, when I was in Jr. High. I had the best standpartner a kid could ask for - my mom.

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: I began playing with SOST in 2006; a colleague of mine (playing in SOST at the time) recommend that I fill in last minute for the principal second violinist, who was ill. I happily obliged and learned the part to Mendelssohn's Fifth Symphony in just a few short days!

Q: Educational background?

A: I attended The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University for both my undergraduate and master's degrees. My primary teachers were Kenneth Goldsmith and the late Raphael Fliegel, former concertmaster of the Houston Symphony. Rice is wonderful place for musicians to become not only professionals in the field, but also well-rounded human beings.

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: My greatest influences in music have to be my three primary teachers: Kenneth Goldsmith and Raphael Fliegel, at Rice, and Collette Wichert, my teacher in my hometown of York, PA. Each of them nurtured my passion for music in their own creative ways and gave me the tools to succeed in the music world. I am eternally grateful to them! Of course, I have also been inspired by many of the great violinists of our day, including Leonidas Kavakos, Jascha Heifetz, and Giuliano Carmignola.

Q: What is your "day job"?

A: I'm happy to say my day job is being a professional musician! Aside from my duties at SOST, I serve as artistic and executive director of a non-profit chamber music organization called Apollo Chamber Players. Apollo explores the rich intersections of Western classical and folk/ethnic music. I also do a fair amount of music contracting work, teach for the Houston Youth Symphony's outreach program, and perform with the Houston Grand Opera and Ballet orchestras.

Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: I enjoy running, especially competitive running (5K races), as well as playing the occasional pick-up kick-ball and/or soccer game. I enjoy traveling and consider myself a "foodie," Houston and Texas in general has so much to offer in terms of wonderful food! Also, my wife, who is from Puebla, Mexico, is a fantastic cook. She definitely spoils me! She is also a violinist, so I guess you could say another hobby of ours is playing music together.

Q: Favorite music?

A: Aside from classical music, I am a fan of jazz, folk, and certain kinds of rock/alternative music. My favorite bands are Radiohead, Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin and Muse. Music is music, and some of the best 'rock' musicians are classically-trained - they can speak through their instruments and music in just the same way as a symphony orchestra or classical performer can.