

Roma Newton, Viola

Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: Violin and Viola. Through college, I also played Oboe

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

A: My first music lessons were in a beginning string class taught in a Beaumont Independent School District elementary school. I began playing on an instrument that had been ordered from Sears and Roebuck for \$18, and that included its pasteboard case and steel bow. Making music with an instrument of such poor quality is quite a task for a beginner, but I wanted to play so much, I made it sing!

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: I began playing violin with the Beaumont Symphony, the original title of The Symphony of Southeast Texas, at the age of 16. A few years ago, I acquired a viola, and began playing that instrument with the Symphony.

Q: Educational background?

A: Bachelor's and Master's in Music Education — Lamar, McNeese, SMU

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: Edna Brooks of both the Beaumont Independent School District and Lamar Music Faculties, and Arnold Whedbee of the Beaumont Independent School District Music Faculty

Q: What is your "day job?"

A: I manage a music service, **Violini di ROMA**. Our musicians are available to play for ceremonies and receptions in the area. I am retired from teaching for the State of Texas, where through the years I taught instrumental music, art and English.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: Cartoon drawing, crewel embroidery creations, early European history, choral singing, mini dachshunds, container gardening, wood carving-sculpture, bread baking, computer technology