

Whitney Bullock, Viola



Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: I play the viola.

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

A: I started in the 3rd grade - being in orchestra class got me out of PE, and the "viola" seemed like an exotic choice to set me apart from the conventional choices of my peers.

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: I started as a substitute violist while in graduate school around 2006, and won the position of Principal Viola in 2009.

Q: Educational background?

A: Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance and Women's Studies - Vanderbilt University; Master of Music in Viola Performance - Rice University

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: My teachers James Dunham, Steve Wyczinski, and Catharine Carroll.

Q: What is your "day job?"

A: Viola is a 24/7 "job" for me. In addition to my duties with SOST, I am the violist and educational director of a non-profit string quartet, Apollo Chamber Players, based in Houston. I also am on staff at Rice University as a pre-college viola instructor, and I am also involved with coaching Houston Youth Symphony and its chamber music program.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: My cats, reading, being a foodie, being a feminist.

Q: Favorite music?

A: Anything with a good (i.e. non-mind numbing) viola part. So, most late Romantic works like Brahms symphonies and works by Richard Strauss, and early 20th century works by Stravinsky and Sibelius.