



# TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL RIBBON FESTIVAL

Saturday, December 5, 2020

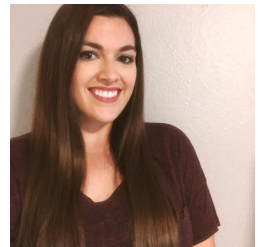
## OUR CLINICIANS



**Sera Smolen**, is an active performer of numerous genres of music, including four centuries of classical music. As a committed improviser, she has collaborated with dancers, sculptors, painters, poets, and all kinds of musicians. Smolen received her PhD in music education from the Union Institute in 2000, with graduate study at Ithaca College and Cornell University. She received her bachelors degree at Ithaca College with a double major in performance and music education. She currently teaches at the Opus Ithaca School of Music in Ithaca NY. She is a frequent guest clinician in Europe, the US and Canada for workshops and teacher training

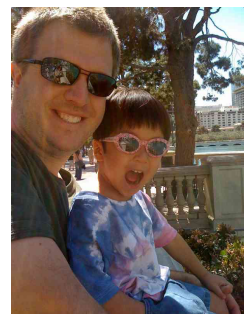
seminars covering pedagogies of improvisation and composition for developing string players. She has taught at Mansfield University, Alfred University, the Kanack School in Rochester NY, and Hobart and William Smith College. She has been the assistant director of the New Directions Cello Festival for 20 years.

**Rachel Alvarado** serves as Lower and Middle School Orchestra Director at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Austin, Texas. Previously, she served as head orchestra director at Cedar Ridge High School in Round Rock ISD, earning sweepstakes awards at UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Mrs. Alvarado also maintains a private violin and viola studio through the Austin Suzuki Music School and is a regular clinician at the Austin Suzuki Institute, Ozark Suzuki Institute, Intermountain Suzuki String Institute, and many other Suzuki music festivals throughout Texas. Additionally, she conducted the Camerata Orchestra in the Austin Youth Orchestra program and enjoys performing regularly in the Austin area.



**Heidi Curatolo** is the founder and director of the Suzuki Violin and Piano Institute of Aspen (2002-present). She currently has 45+ violin and piano students ages 5 years-adult. Heidi has been very fortunate to grow up immersed in the Suzuki Method since the age of three, thanks to her dedicated mother who is also a Suzuki teacher. Heidi grew up in New York where she performed as violinist and pianist with various local orchestras, chamber groups, and as a soloist. Heidi has attended the 16th World Suzuki Convention in Matsumoto, Japan and the 5th Asia Conference in Taiwan. She has been a presenter and performer at the International Suzuki Teacher's EX-Change conferences in Germany for the past 6 years. Heidi has also taught violin master classes and groups classes in Thailand, Costa Rica, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Poland and Croatia. She has also taught at the Intermountain Suzuki institute in Utah and at the Advanced Suzuki Institute at Stanford University.

**James Hutchins** lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his wonderful and gorgeous wife and his fabulous and entertaining son. He grew up in the Suzuki Method, has been a Suzuki teacher for over 25 years and is a proud Suzuki dad. James is a registered teacher trainer who has taught at workshops, institutes and classes around the world, including South Korea, Iceland, Peru, Lithuania, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Bermuda, the Bahamas and throughout the States. In 2018, James was a guest Clinician at the 67th Suzuki Method Summer School in Matsumoto, Japan. His studio has performed for former Secretary of State and First Lady Hillary Clinton at the White House, at the National Zoo, the U.S. Capitol, the Maryland State Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the National Aquarium and on the Millennium Stage and with the National Symphony at The Kennedy Center. They have also played the National Anthem for the Baltimore Orioles, Washington Wizards and Nationals. James also had the honor of performing for Dr. and Mrs. Suzuki at their home in Japan.



The eclectic landscape of the chamber music repertoire forms the ideal musical playground for Jamaican-American violinist, **Katherine Dennis**. Already in her young career, she has performed in venues across Europe and North America, including Carnegie Hall. Additionally, she has participated in a bevy of international music festivals. Her degrees and studies include a Master's in Music Education from Hunter College, a Master's in violin performance from McGill University and a Bachelor's in violin performance from East Carolina University where she completed long term Suzuki Training for Violin Books 1-10.