



## ***The Light Continues to Shine!***

The summer months at ISM have been filled with travel and adventure, rehearsals and concerts, and social events for our ISM families, friends, and teachers. How wonderful that the ISM music community extends beyond our lessons through sharing music, making a positive daily impact, and creating memories to last a lifetime. **Immanuel School of Music is more than a school of music—we are *your music school*, proudly serving the community, *sharing our gifts and talents* with others through *meaningful connections* as our ministry.**

Mozart Strings is a **unique outreach program** at ISM that offers before and after school beginning string classes to area schools without a string program. This program is serving over 18 locations in three counties, teaching more than 250 students, and providing educational school assembly performances to over 5,400 students annually. Generous donations help support our outreach, academic music demonstrations, and performances, as well as special workshops offered to our school communities and ISM students. We **welcome your support** in making a positive impact on the community.

Julie Geiman, Education Director, shares, “Our team of Mozart outreach teachers is **dedicated to their craft** and **passionate about teaching** our youth. We are beyond thrilled Anja Ormiston has recently joined the Immanuel School of Music as part of the Mozart Strings Faculty.”

### **Meet Anja Ormiston:**

Viola, Violin, and Mozart Strings Faculty.

***What are you most excited about being part of the Immanuel School of Music?*** “I’m very excited to join the fantastic faculty of teachers within the thriving musical community here at ISM. I really enjoy working with young musicians at the beginning of their musical journey and am looking forward to meeting some new string students in the Mozart Strings Program!”

***What styles of music do you most enjoy?*** “I enjoy listening to a broad range of music from classical - including music I’m preparing for upcoming performances - to a mix of pop and contemporary music.”

***What words of encouragement do you offer to young musicians?*** “Seek out opportunities to perform for family and friends, and try to attend as many concerts as you can. If you haven’t already, consider joining an orchestra or forming a chamber group with friends.”



“Not only is collaborating with others an essential part of musical development, it is also one of the most fun and rewarding things about being a musician!”

***Outside of music, what is a favorite pastime or place to travel?*** I play pickleball in a league, which is great fun! I also love to travel, and some recent highlights include visiting family in the Black Forest region of Germany and hiking the Samaria Gorge on Crete, which is the longest gorge in Europe.”





# IMMANUEL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## ***Growth in Confidence***

Our students had the **fabulous experience** of participating in the Summer Chamber Players and receiving **priceless, individualized small-group instruction** from the SBQ members this summer. Each student had their own unique part, which they prepared and performed alongside their ensemble, allowing all students to excel as **musicians** and **grow in confidence**.

Many thanks to the guidance of our **outstanding quartet in residence, Southbank Quartet**, who included Ellen Stephens, Evan Hurley, Hannah Gerbus, and Paul Yoshida. **You each are an inspiration!**

### **Summer Chamber Players** An Interview with Ellen Stephens

***What inspired you to offer and teach Chamber Players?*** “Some of my fondest memories are from my experience I had over the summer months at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival. The program was five weeks long and each week every student was assigned a different chamber group. It was my highlight of the week to find out my next assignment. My favorite memory was when I was assigned to play ‘Pavane pour une infante défunte’ by Maurice Ravel with eight harp players.”

***What do you most enjoy about teaching the chamber ensembles?*** “As a teacher working with chamber student ensembles, I thoroughly enjoy working one-on-one with each student.”

“It is heartwarming to witness their growth each week! Chamber music allows the students to experience their musical journey through a more personal level.”

“A favorite teaching moment this summer with my chamber ensembles is when the group all smiled together over their accomplishment. Advice I would give someone wanting to begin learning an instrument, as our faithful ISM student, Thomas Brock, said, ‘**Just Do It!**’”

“We had a nice problem to have this year! **We had such a large interest** in the Chamber Players 2025 that we presented **two concerts** to support all students, families, and friends! **Love it!**”

Ellen Stephens  
Director of ISM



# Serving Our Youngest Musicians

Music is timeless and serves all ages. Rachel Sedmak specializes in serving our youngest musicians at ISM: *"I enjoy working with young children because I love to see the joy and creativity they bring to music. They are always full of energy and ideas!"*

Spread the joys of music with our community families and friends by sharing the good word of these wholesome music opportunities. **Toddler Melodies Classes** (ages 9 months – 3 years) are set to begin on August 12th. **Preschool Melodies Classes** (ages 3-4 years) are set to start on September 23rd.



## Fall Regristation Open

*Registration for all Immanuel School of Music Fall & Academic Year programs is Now Open.*

*To sign up, learn more, or donate to support ISM, visit: [www.immanuelsofmusic.org](http://www.immanuelsofmusic.org)*



*Scan here to visit our website!*

***We are so grateful for the blessings bestowed upon us. May our light continue to shine with the Immanuel School of Music, through the continued love and support of our Immanuel community.***