

# ***Rachael Keplin Gladen, DMA***

678.641.1638

[keplin.rachael@gmail.com](mailto:keplin.rachael@gmail.com)

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## **Education**

University of North Carolina at Greensboro: D.M.A in Viola Performance (2024)

Cognate: Improvisation

Dissertation: Mindfulness and Free Improvisation: A Holistic Approach to Cultivating Creativity and Awareness

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Minerva Scholar

Moore Fellow

The Ohio State University: M.A in String Pedagogy (2015)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Kennesaw State University: B.M in Viola Performance (2013)

HOPE Scholar

Suzuki Association of the Americas

Book 3 Certification, Violin & Viola (2019)

Book 2 Certification, Violin & Viola (2019)

Book 1 Certification, Violin & Viola (2018)

Every Child Can Philosophy Course Certification (2018)

## **Teaching**

### **University & College**

Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC (2024 - Present)

Viola Studio Lessons, Instructor of Record

Provide weekly instruction on solo, chamber, and orchestral repertoire. Prepare students for solo recitals.

Violin Studio Lessons Instructor of Record

Provide weekly instruction on solo, chamber, and orchestral repertoire. Prepare students for solo recitals.

University of North Carolina Greensboro, Greensboro, NC (2021 - Present)

Entrepreneurship in the Performing Arts, Instructor of Record (2024 -present)

Introduction to extra-musical skills required for the modern musician. Uphold the values of a writing and speaking intensive course through deep class discussion, weekly reading and writing assignments. Large projects include building a website and creating a business plan.

Undergraduate and graduate student enrollment.

Free Improvisation, Assistant Instructor (2022-2024)

Lead and create activities for facilitating creating free improvisation and discussion of learning principles.

Viola Studio Lessons, Undergraduate Instructor (2023-2024)

Provide weekly instruction on solo, chamber, and orchestral repertoire. Prepare students for solo recitals.

Viola Technique Class, Instructor (Spring 2024)

Supplementary technique course for undergraduate and graduate viola studio.  
Inspiration for this semester stemmed from Ivo-Jan van der Werff's warm-up exercises and their capacity to stimulate free improvisation during practice.

#### Viola Studio & Repertoire Class, Assistant Instructor (2021-2024)

Plan and lead studio class in masterclass-style and group studio class in topics of viola technique, practice strategies, and wellness activities.

#### The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (2013 - 2015)

##### Viola Studio, Assistant

Assist in organizing studio events such as Viola Day and studio recitals, facilitate studio communication, teach undergraduate lessons as needed

##### Upper Strings Beginning Pedagogy: Upper Strings, Assistant

Monitor and communicate student attendance and participation, facilitate student questions outside of class hours

##### Lower Strings Beginning Pedagogy, Assistant

Monitor and communicate student attendance and participation, facilitate student questions outside of class hours

### Masterclasses Taught

#### International

Industrial University of Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia (October 2024): Solo strings masterclass

Industrial University of Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia (October 2024): Orchestral masterclass

#### National & Regional

University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC (October 2025): Free improvisation + mindfulness workshop

University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC (October 2024): Loop station masterclass and performance

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (February 2024): Jazz masterclass with Helen Sung + Chamber Brews

### Outreach & Youth Organizations

Peer Artistic Leadership Program, UNCG, Greensboro, NC (August 2023 - May 2024): Dr. Rebecca MacLeod's string project program employs a 5-tier leadership model and offers low-cost private and group instruction for local string students.

##### Program Coordinator

American Association of University Women - IT Girls Intersection UNCG Camp (June 2023): Rising middle school and high school students are invited to participate in coding and arts technology classes  
Presenting Artist and Composer

#### Western Regional Youth Symphony, Greensboro, NC (February, 2023)

Students are invited from around North Carolina to audition and participate in a full symphony orchestra. The youth orchestra rehearses and performs as part of the NCMEA conference.

##### Viola Adjudicator & Viola Section Coach

**Moore Music Summer String Workshop, Greensboro, NC (July 2022):**

One week summer intensive for violin and viola students of all ages and playing experience. Program is modeled after Suzuki and traditional style group class and includes ensemble work, team building exercises, technique review, and masterclasses.

Creator, Organizer, and Lead Instructor

**UNCG Summer Music Camp, Greensboro, NC (July 2022, July 2023, July 2024) : Two week long summer camp hosted by the University of North Carolina Greensboro School of Music. Students spend one week on campus and are enrolled in private instruction and large ensembles in band, chorus, or orchestra.**

Viola Lessons Instructor

**Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestras, Columbus, OH (2013 - 2021)**

Violin Coach, All-City Orchestra

Violin Coach, Chamber Strings

Violin Adjudicator, Chamber Strings

Viola Coach, Youth Symphony

Viola Coach, Chamber Strings

Viola Adjudicator, Chamber Strings

**Morning Strings Summer Camp at The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (2013 - 2015): Multi-session summer camp for students in middle and high-school. Students spend time in large orchestra ensembles and instrument-specific sectionals.**

Viola Coach, Morning Strings Summer Camp

Violin Coach, Morning Strings Summer Camp

Intermediate Strings Director, Morning Strings Summer String Camp

**Atlanta Music Project, Atlanta, GA (2012): El Sistema-modeled program that offers group and private lessons in multiple instruments at little or no cost to inner-city youth.**

Beginner Group Violin, Instructor

**Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra, Kennesaw, GA (2011 - 2013)**

Viola Section Coach

Chamber Music Coach

**Studio & Institute**

**Music Academy of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC (2023 - Present)**

Viola and Violin Instructor

Group Class Pre-Twinkle, Violin, Instructor

**Moore Music, Greensboro, NC (2022 - 2023)**

Viola and Violin Instructor

**Suzuki Music Institute, Columbus, OH (2018 - 2021)**

Individual Viola, Instructor

Individual Violin, Instructor

Vivaldi Ensemble, Co-Director

Group Viola Class Mixed Level, Instructor

Musicianship Violin 4, Instructor

Group Class Book 2, Violin & Viola, Instructor

Group Class Book 1, Violin & Viola, Instructor

Musicianship Violin 3, Instructor

Group Class Pre-Twinkle, Violin & Viola, Assistant Instructor

Hilliard Community Music School, Columbus, OH (2016 - 2021)  
Viola and Violin Instructor

Encore Music, Columbus, OH (2016)  
Viola and Violin Instructor

The Harmony House, Kennesaw, GA (2011-2013)  
Viola and Violin Instructor

## **Teaching Presentations**

### International

Industrial University of Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia (October 2024): Presentation of Sounding Board program. Explanation of pieces and exploration of our compositions and group origination.

### National

Mindfulness & Free Improvisation, ASTA Virtual String Teachers Summit (scheduled for July 16, 2024): Presentation of my dissertation research on a holistic teaching sequence that integrates mindfulness and free improvisation techniques.

Twinkle to Free Improvisation, The Ohio State University, Beginning String Techniques (Spring 2024): Pedagogical demonstration of free improvisation teaching strategies for beginning string players.

### Regional

Mindfulness & Free Improvisation: A Holistic Approach to Cultivating Creativity and Awareness, University of North Carolina Greensboro (Spring 2024): Presentation of dissertation research and demonstration of original teaching sequence strategies.

Mindfulness & Free Improvisation: A Holistic Approach to Cultivating Creativity and Awareness, University of North Carolina Greensboro (Fall 2023): Presentation of dissertation proposal and research formatting and process for graduate research seminar course.

A Discussion on Dan DiPiero's "Rancière and Improvisation" Article, University of North Carolina Greensboro (Fall 2023): Word mapping and discussion on viewing improvisation throughout the ideas of French politician Jacques Rancière.

A Discussion on Nadine Hubs' "Anything but Country" Article, University of North Carolina Greensboro (Spring 2023): Word association group activity and discussion of Hubs' article "Anything but Country". Lecture designed for undergraduate music and non-music majors.

Chromatic Mediants in Radiohead's "Morning Bell", University of North Carolina Greensboro (Spring 2022): Transcription and analysis of Radiohead's "Morning Bell". Worksheet, activity, and discussion include topics of mixed meter and chromatic mediants. Lecture designed for undergraduate aural skills 3.

## Research & Creative Activities

### Solo Programs

#### Helene Benefit Recital: Minimal Free Improvisation

Program of free improvisations and improvisations inspired by minimalist music. All donations raised to support those affected by hurricane Helene.

Salem College, Wake-Forest, NC (17 November 2024)

Wake Forest University, Wake-Forest, NC (23 November 2024)

#### Viola Loops (2023-2024)

Debut of original compositions and free improvisation works for viola and loop pedal. This program was premiered through a solo tour of three local Greensboro spaces.

Well Spring, Greensboro, NC (11 June 2024)

Abbottswood at Irving Park, Greensboro, NC (23 July 2024)

Dram & Draught, Winston-Salem, NC (29 October 2023)

Dram & Draught, Greensboro, NC (13 July 2023)

Heritage Greens, Greensboro, NC (20 July 2023)

Abbottswood at Irving Park, Greensboro, NC (10 August 2023)

#### Double Oaks B&B, Greensboro, NC (9 October 2023)

*Tooth & Nail*, Missy Mazzoli; *Circle Play*, Rachael Keplin; *Etudes for Viola & Tape*, Nico Muhly; *Viola Sonata Op. 11, N. 4*, Paul Hindemith

#### Organ Hall, University of North Carolina, NC (13 Jan 2023)

Viola Concerto, Miklos Rosza; *Perfect Storm*, Shulamit Ran; *Limestone & Felt*, Caroline Shaw

#### Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art, Greensboro, NC (April & May 2022)

Free Improvisation with *H2O* Exhibit: Program includes solo viola free improvisation over produced tracks, duet with solo modern dancer, duet with violin, and ensemble with viola and two voices. All improvisation is inspired by art in the exhibit.

#### Organ Hall, University of North Carolina, NC (13 Feb 2022)

Viola Sonata Op. 147, Dmitri Shostakovich; *Escape*, Judd Greenstein; *Shades of Violet*, Jenni Brandon

### Orchestral Positions

#### Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, Greensboro, NC (2024 - Present)

Associate Principal Viola

Section Viola

#### North Carolina Opera, Raleigh, NC (2022 - Present)

Section Viola

#### Winston-Salem Symphony Orchestra, Winston-Salem, NC (2024-Present)

Section Viola

#### North Charleston Pops, North Charleston, SC (2022 - Present)

Principal Viola (sub)

Section Viola

Western Piedmont Symphony Orchestra (February 2023 - Present)  
Section Viola

Newark Granville Symphony Orchestra, Newark, OH (2013 - 2021)  
Section Violist

Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra, Columbus, OH (2014 - 2021)  
Section Violist

Westerville Symphony Orchestra, Westerville, OH (2015 - 2021)  
Principal Violist  
Section Violist

McConnell Arts Center Chamber Orchestra, Worthington, OH (2016 - 2018)  
Principal Violist  
Section Violist

### **Collaborative, Recording, and Chamber Positions**

Sounding Board, Greensboro, NC (2024 - Present)  
Principal Viola Artist

Chamber Brews LLC., Columbus, OH (2016 – Present)  
Principal Viola Artist  
Co-Director (2016 - 2021)

Corda Entertainment, Greensboro, NC (2021 – Present)  
Chamber Violist

Columbus Musicians LLC., Columbus, OH (2015 – 2021)  
Solo Violist  
Chamber Violist

Bluewater Kings Band, Columbus, OH & Atlanta, GA (2019 – Present)  
Chamber Violist

Columbus Dance Theater, Columbus, OH (2016)  
Section Violist

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (2013 - 2015)  
Graduate String Quartet, Violist

## Chamber Music Programs

University of North Carolina Greensboro Residency (Spring 2025)

Top composition students wrote pieces to be rehearsed and performed on a concert by Sounding Board.

Sounding Board at International Festival of Percussion and Chamber Music, Industrial University of Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia (October 2024)

Free Improvisation Collaborative Recitals (April - June 2024): Set of recitals with pianist Davide Bianchi featuring both solo and duo free improvisation in local Greensboro venues including Double Oaks and the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center.

Nightblooms + Sounding Board, Double Oaks, Greensboro, NC (June 2024)

Opening program crafted for local band, Nightblooms. Program included works by John Cage, Jessie Montgomery, Marc Mellits, and Rachael Keplin

\*The programs below are all part of my position as co-director with Chamber Brews. Chamber Brews is a professional chamber ensemble whose mission is to bring new classical music to non-traditional performance venues that allow for maximum audience engagement.

Helen Sung + Chamber Brews, Jazz Arts Group, Columbus, OH (February 2024)

Live performance of Helen Sung's album *Quartet* + and Lincoln Theater in Columbus, OH.

Dick's Den, Columbus, OH

Chamber Brews & Friends (2020): A collaborative program featuring quartet members as soloist and in chamber ensembles at Columbus's oldest music venue.

Voices (2019): Explores the voices, roles, and sounds of the string quartet members.

Snowden Gray Mansion, Columbus, OH

Redefining Space (2019): Featured compositions by women living in the 20th and 21st century.

Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH

Season Finale (2019): An audience curated program of repertoire from the 2019 season.

Voices (2019): Explores the voices, roles, and sounds of the string quartet members.

Global Folk (2018): Explores folk influences in classical music from various cultures.

Brothers Drake Meadery, Columbus, OH

Percussive (2018): examines the percussive nature of string instruments, featuring commissions by Eli Chambers and Joseph Krygier.

Bop Stop at The Music Settlement, Cleveland, OH

Global Folk (2018): Explores folk influences in classical music from various cultures.

Forest City Brewing, Cleveland, OH

Voices (2019): Explores the voices, roles, and sounds of the string quartet members.

Global Folk (2018): Explores folk influences in classical music from various cultures.

Two Dollar Radio Headquarters, Columbus, OH

Literature (2018): A collection of new music inspired by literary works, featuring a commission by Ramsey Sadaka.

American (2018): Explores what it means for music to be "American" sonically and culturally.

Columbus Cultural Arts Center, Columbus, OH

Sight of Sound (2017): Engages the audience and musicians in activities exploring connections between aural and visual art.

In Memoriam (2017): Explores works inspired by and dedicated to persons in a composer's life.

Wolf's Ridge Brewing, Columbus, OH

Sounds of War (2016): Focuses on varying impressions, responses, and emotions of WWII.

## Recording Credits

“Mosaics”, Rachael Keplin (2025)

Artist, Producer

“Black Odes”, Mark Lomax Trio (release date tbd in 2026)

Guest artist

Studio 68, Greensboro, NC (2023)

Recording Artist

“Above the Floorboards”, Hello Emerson (2017)

“Seat 16b”, Hello Emerson (2019)

“Midwest”, Hello Emerson (2019)

Guest Artist

“Only Human, Cordial Sins (2017)

Guest Artist

“The Wild Hunt”, Quiet Hounds (2014)

Guest Artist

## National Tours

Michael Buble, *Higher Tour*

Principal Violist, Gas South Arena, Atlanta, GA (2022)

Principal Violist, North Charleston Coliseum, Charleston, SC (2022)

Josh Groban

Principal Violist, Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts, Greensboro, NC (2021)

Principal Violist, Riverfront Park Amphitheater, Wilmington, NC (2022)

Trans-Siberian Orchestra

Principal Violist, PNC Arena, Raleigh, NC (2022)

Section Violist Bon Secours Wellness Arena, Greenville, SC (2011)

Mannheim Steamroller

Principal Violist, The Berglund Center, Roanoke, VA (2022)

## **Text Publications**

Keplin, Rachael. "Mindfulness and Free Improvisation: A Holistic Approach to Cultivating Creativity and Awareness." Dissertation. 2024.

## **Original Compositions**

Mosaics for Viola and Loop Pedal (2025)  
Fall for viola, clarinet, marimba, and piano (2024)  
Circle Play for Viola and Loop Pedal (2023)  
Fall for Viola and Loop Pedal (2023)  
Atmós for Viola and Loop Pedal (2023)  
Flights for Viola and Loop Pedal (2023)  
Spirited for Viola and Loop Pedal (2023)

## **Grants**

Wake Forest University Faculty Funding (January 2025)  
\$375: Support travel to perform with Jazz Arts Columbus in April 2025.

Artist Support Grant, The Arts Council of Greater Greensboro (November 2023)  
\$1,500: Supported purchase of performance equipment including loop station, mic, TRS and XLR cords, and speaker.

Group Artist Grant, Greater Columbus Arts Council (August 2021)  
\$2,000: Supported Chamber Brews album recording production, hiring of recording staff and musicians.

Individual Artist Grant, Greater Columbus Arts Council (February 2020)  
\$1,750: Supported the purchase of artist equipment in the form of a viola bow.

Individual Artist Grant, Greater Columbus Arts Council (December 2018)  
\$750: Supported the purchase of teaching materials in the form of method books, student music, and studio student prizes.

## **Student Accomplishments**

All-County Youth Orchestra, NC (2024, 2025)  
Aycha Hamze, viola  
Dianna Nguyen, violin  
Aurelia Wilder, violin

Western Regional Youth Symphony, NC (2024)  
Dianna Nguyen, Violin  
Cayden Yang, Viola  
Bridgette Yang, Viola

Greensboro Youth Symphony, Greensboro, NC (2023, 2024, 2025)  
Kiefer Yuan, Youth Strings  
Emilia Zhang, Philharmonic Orchestra  
Aslynn West, Symphony Orchestra  
Ellen Wang, Youth Strings

Eastern Music Festival, Greensboro, NC (2021)  
Carly Nyktas, Viola, Upper Arlington, OH

Brevard Music Festival, Brevard, NC Viola (2021)  
Carly Nyktas, Viola, Upper Arlington, OH

Columbus Youth Symphony, Columbus, OH (2019)  
Alex Oberyszyn, Principal Viola, Worthington, OH  
Carly Nyktas, Section Viola, Upper Arlington, OH  
Greyson Estep, Section Viola, Gahanna, OH

Youth Philharmonic of Central Ohio, Principal (2018)  
Alex Oberyszyn, Viola, Worthington, OH

## Service & Leadership

### Collegiate

University of North Carolina Greensboro, Greensboro, NC (2021 - 2025)

Strategic Planning Task Force, Part-Time Faculty at Large (2025): Collect, listen, and resolve NASM tasks and faculty suggestions.

University Concert & Lecture Series, Student Member (2023-2024): Nominate, elect, and recruit guest artists for performances at the university.

Search Committee for Visiting Orchestra Director, Student Member (Summer 2022): Review job posting materials and assist in conducting a search for a Fall 2022 visiting orchestral conductor.

Student Advisory Board, Coordinator : Serve as a leader to ensemble members and communications liaison to faculty

Pre-Concert Chats, Coordinator: Recruit student participants and organize audience outreach for large ensembles.

Improv Dance Crawl, Co-coordinator, Greensboro, NC (October 2022)

Collaboration with the UNCG Department of Dance and the UNCG School of Music. Musicians and dancers will create 3-4 improvised performances at 3-4 locations along downtown Greensboro.

### Community

Columbus City, Hilliard, and Upper Arlington Schools, Columbus, OH (2021)

Organizer, Community Lessons Day: Self-created outreach day to bring free 15-20 minute virtual lessons during the pandemic to the Columbus community.

Suzuki Music Institute, Columbus, OH (2018 - 2021)

Volunteer Leader, Family Day Outreach: Share institute values and information with prospective families in the Columbus community, guide prospective students through a 5-10 minute lesson.

Volunteer Leader, Huntington Holiday Performance: Lead students in public performances in venues in the Columbus community.

## **Outreach & Administrative Experience**

University of North Carolina, Greensboro (2021 - 2024)

Pre-Concert Chat Host & Creator: Oversee student-lead audience outreach talks before large ensemble concerts.

Improv Crawl (Fall 2022): Co-organized a progressive performance experience through downtown Greensboro. Each location featured free improvisation performances by student musicians and dancers.

Chamber Brews LLC., Columbus, OH (2018 - 2024)

Co-Director : Create, plan, organize and perform programs.

Social Media Coordinator : Create, manage, and analyze Chamber Brew's social media presence.

Columbus Youth Symphony Orchestras, Columbus, OH (2017, 2020)

Operations Coordinator, Columbus All City Orchestra : Responsible for all management aspects.

Bobbie Bailey Performance Center, Kennesaw, GA (2010 - 2013)

Stage Manager: Oversee all stage operations and manage stage staff.

House Manager: Oversee patron experience and manage ushers.

## **Honors & Awards**

University of North Carolina Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

Dean's Scholarship (August 2023)

Moore Fellowship (August 2021)

Minerva Scholar (August 2021)

Concerto Competition Finalist (January 2023)

Suzuki Association of the Americas, Boulder, CO

Suzuki Teacher Training Scholarship Award (March 2019)

Suzuki Teacher Training Scholarship Award (March 2018)

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (April 2015)

Concerto Competition Finalist (December 2014)

Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

Hope Scholarship (2009 - 2013)

## **Professional Memberships**

The Suzuki Association of the Americas (2017)

The American Viola Society (2012)

American String Teachers Association (2012)