

**DANWEN JIANG**  
**Assistant Professor of Music (Violin)**  
School of Music  
Herberger College of the Arts  
Arizona State University

**Personal Statement**

I began studying the violin at the age of six in China with my father, Xiongda Jiang, who is a nationally renowned musician and teacher. At age ten, I was one of four violinists selected from hundreds of applicants to attend the Central Conservatory of Music, the finest music school in China, and was chosen to perform as a soloist at a special performance event for the Chinese government, including the former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. At age fourteen, I won Fourth Prize in China's National Young Artist Violin Competition. I came to the United States as student with a full-scholarship at the age of seventeen to continue my musical studies and shortly thereafter won First Prizes in several national and international violin competitions. In 1989, I was selected to participate in the prestigious New York String Orchestra and the Alexander Schneider Chamber Music Seminar and performed in Carnegie Hall and at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. I have had the finest professional training in classical music performance and have studied with some of the greatest musicians of the century, and thus, have gained the knowledge and performance experience to play and teach the entire classical violin, chamber music and symphonic repertoires from the 17th Century to the present.

**Creative / Performance Activity:**

As an active soloist, I promote ASU School of Music worldwide. I have performed public recitals along with concerto performances with symphony and chamber orchestras in China, Canada, France, Italy and the United States, and have performed at international music festivals and concert series including Sanibel, Yale, Kneisel Hall, Manchester, Rutgers, St. Louis International Artist Presentation Society, Victoria International Music Festival in Canada, Festivals du Quercy Blanc and dans le Gard in France, Gioventù Musicale D'Italia. My concerts are well received by audiences. I have received enthusiastic reviews by critics writing for *The Boston Globe*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *The Herald-Tribune (FL)*, *The Gramophone (China)* – *The Classical Music Magazine*, *Ditzinger Anzeiger (Germany)*, and others. (Please refer to excerpts quoted in my CV.) Many of my performances are heard through classical radio networks and television stations in the U.S and China, such as NPR, KBAQ (AZ), WQXR (NY), KFOU (MO), KING (WA), WILL (IL), CNR and CCTV (China).

As an anchor faculty artist of the Manchester Music Festival since 1996, I have performed more than two hundred chamber music works with distinguished musicians including musicians from the Marlboro Music Festival and the Chamber Music of the Lincoln Center, members of the Guarneri, Juilliard, Tokyo, Shanghai and Lark String Quartets, the Laredo-Robinson Duo, principal players of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, First Prize winner of The Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and The Naumberg International Competition André-Michel Schub, First Prize winner of The William Kapell International Piano Competition Christopher Taylor, Tchaikovsky International Cello Competition's Gold Medalist Nathaniel Rosen, and faculty artists from various major music institutions such as the Juilliard School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, the Curtis Institute, Yale School of Music, the State University of New York, New England Conservatory of Music, Boston Conservatory of Music and the University of Southern California. Several of my performances are available on compact discs through the Eroica label.

The Manchester Music Festival provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the quality of faculty at the ASU School of Music, and the festival serves as fertile ground for recruitment of extremely talented students to our University. I regularly participate in performances for communities that support the Festival in the New York and New England areas. These concerts raise money to support the successful, annual, summer-long music performance and education programs the Manchester Music Festival offers for talented international performers.

In June 2007, I was invited by the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music's Preparatory School to perform at the ten-day celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I was featured as the final performer in the violin recital given by national and international prize-winning alumni. In April 2007, I was the soloist with the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra in Hong Kong. The performance drew over two thousand audience members at the Hong Kong Cultural center. I was subsequently invited to perform there annually.

I have made substantial contributions to the music programs at Arizona State University since I joined the faculty. In addition to the international acclaim that I have brought to ASU School of Music, I have collaborated with my ASU colleagues in public recitals and chamber music concerts, presenting greater than fifty important pieces of music. I have appeared multiple times as a featured soloist with the ASU Symphony Orchestra, ASU Chamber Orchestra, ASU Wind Symphony and the IChamber (ASU's contemporary music ensemble.) This fall I will again appear as a featured soloist performing Max Bruch's Concerto Number 1 in G Minor with the ASU Symphony Orchestra with concerts in Scottsdale and at the Gammage Auditorium. In spring of 2004, I was honored as one of the featured violin soloists with the ASU Symphony at the American String Teachers Association National Convention in Reno. I subsequently performed at the International Arnold Schoenberg Symposium held at Arizona State University, a major international event hosted by our University. I have also arranged performance tours in the United States and abroad for several of my colleagues at ASU.

I anticipate many more performance engagements in the years to come, and I continue to look for opportunities to further enhance the artistic and educational profiles of our University on both national and international concert stages. My upcoming performance engagements to date for the 2007-2008 academic - year include recitals and concerto performances with orchestras in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and various cities in the United States.

### **Teaching Activity:**

My performing and teaching careers are interrelated and I utilize my experiences as a performing artist to enhance my teaching of creativity to students.

My primary teaching goal is to mold my students into successful musical contributors, whether as performing artists or educators in higher education or as primary or secondary public or private school music teachers. I drive my students to develop technically, musically, intellectually, artistically and emotionally. I am a mentor of various levels of techniques, styles, and periods of music that are reflected in the violin repertoire, and I highly encourage student's personal growth and creativity.

To achieve these ends, I not only teach each student to master the violin, but also the style, history, theory, form and structure that are associated with the music they play. I relate music to other forms of art, life experiences and values, to enable students to develop a greater artistic mind that is not just based solely on a technical level, but also on the personal level, which is one of the key characteristics of a true artist. All of my students receive hour-long weekly lessons, as well as extra instructions and feedback from weekly studio performance classes. In addition to teaching violin, I also teach Chamber Music, Violin Orchestral Repertoire class and the Upper String Performance Pedagogy

class. Through these courses, I help students to develop efficient learning methods, strong work ethics, and to become well-rounded musicians.

The accomplishments of our music students directly reflect on our university. Students who have studied with me have been First Prize winners: the 2006 Tucson Symphony Young Artist Competition, the Concerto Competitions at Arizona State University, University of Illinois and Oberlin Conservatory of Music, National Youth Violin Competitions in China, and the Third Prize in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Many of these students have been invited with full scholarship offers to participate at prestigious international music festivals such as Juilliard Quartet Seminar, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, *Bravo!* Vail Valley Music Festival, Manchester Music Festival, Strings in the Mountains Music Festival in Colorado, Casalmaggiore International Music Festival in Italy and the Banff Centre Chamber Music Festival in Canada. Some have been selected to perform for the master classes of distinguished violinists such as Ruggiero Ricci, Jaime Laredo, Peter Oundjinn, and members of the Guarneri, Tokyo, Emerson, Juilliard, Cleveland, Shanghai, Orion, Kronos and the St. Lawrence String Quartets.

In my teaching career, I have taught undergraduate, graduate and doctoral music students from many countries, including those from Canada, China, Korea, Greece, Germany, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Sweden and the United States. Some have now embarked on high-powered performance careers, including appointments as Concertmasters of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and the Nevada Opera Orchestra, Associate Concertmaster of Reno Philharmonic, first violinists in the Julstrom and the Vinca String Quartets, and Assistant Professor of Violin at Western Illinois University. Some recent graduating students were offered full scholarships by other renowned music schools such as the Juilliard and Yale Schools of Music to further their music studies.

I have garnered a reputation as a successful teacher/performer and am frequently invited to guest teach and perform at top universities and conservatories across the United States as well as in foreign countries. I have taught guest master classes at the Vancouver Academy of Music in Canada, the University of Illinois, the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart, the Academy of Music in Krakow, Iceland Academy of the Arts, and at numerous other universities in the United States. My upcoming teaching engagements include master classes in conservatories in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. I have accepted the invitation to present the only violin master class for the Collegiate Level at the 2008 American String Teachers Association National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This invitation is not only a great privilege for me personally, but it also bolsters ASU School of Music's prestige as leading institution of performing arts and is invaluable in terms of recruitment of students of the highest level to the university. In 2005, this distinct honor was given to the violinist Midori, Professor of Violin (*The Jascha Heifetz Chair in Violin*) at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music.

Since the commencement of my teaching career in the higher education, I have consistently received the highest student evaluations. My ASU evaluations have had ratings of 1s exclusively (1 is the most excellent and 5 being the least satisfactory.) Student evaluation comments include "Prof. Jiang is an inspiring, thoughtful, concerned violin professor who genuinely cares about each student and their progress as an individual. She does not formulaically approach teaching, but rather assesses each student's personal strengths and weaknesses, allowing the uniqueness of each player to shine through." and "In the past semester, I really learned a lot. I did not just learn to play the violin but also learn to be a musician. Ms. Jiang's musicianship really affects me and changed my view of seeing the music."

### **Service:**

I serve on various committees in the School of Music and the Herberger College. I am also on multiple master / doctoral committees for students mentored by other faculty members. I devote great amount of personal time on advising and evaluating each student's comprehensive exam, doctoral dissertation, as well as attending and proofing all their degree recitals.

I have contributed financially to the ASU Friends of Music Fund by donating the monetary portion of my teaching award to help cover student expenses related to their career development, and I have successfully encouraged other private parties to contribute to the Fund and the School. For the local community, I performed a public recital and raised \$4,324 for the Hope Community Church in Scottsdale to pay for their church debts. Internationally, my concerto performance with the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra in Hong Kong in April of 2007, raised approximately \$1 Million HK (approximately \$150,000 U.S.) for the LEAP (Life Education and Activity Program). In addition, I have given dozens of free community concerts in retirement homes, hospitals and public schools in various states.

I remain current with regard to the latest musical trends through my memberships in the American String Teachers Association, National School Orchestra Association, College Music Society and Chamber Music America (the national association of professional chamber music and musicians). I served as String Judge for the Music Teachers National Association String Competition, the American String Teachers Association's National Violin Competition, and the Sorantin International Competition in Texas.

As the faculty member in charge of ASU School of Music's finest string instrument collection, the Long Collection, I approve, inspect and evaluate over NINETY instruments including violins, violas and bows, and help to maintain them at their best performing condition for our faculty and students.

### **Goals:**

My experiences as an active and skilled performer greatly benefit my teaching. I have achieved my highly advanced performing skills and unique artistic interpretations through years of performing on stage. It is crucial for a teacher to share these important experiences with their students as part of their education. I will continue to serve as a concert violinist both nationally and internationally, and create novel performance projects with new and familiar colleagues. I have participated in various collaborations with other departments, including Languages, Art and Dance. I continue to look for opportunities to develop projects that involve the intersection of music and other disciplines. The increasing number of master classes that I teach annually provides an ideal opportunity to display excellence in artistry and scholarship, and to promote the ASU School of Music. My many appearances in China and Europe will allow me to expand my role as conduit for the most outstanding young talents to study at ASU. My ultimate goals are to continue to build a large and strong violin studio, and to increase the number of high quality ASU graduates who serve the performing arts and music education here in Arizona and around the world.