

## **Lamar Stringfield Music Camp Conductors and Clinicians Biographies**

### **Margaret Garriss**

Margaret Garriss is a professional violinist, teacher and freelance musician who enjoys teaching both traditional and Suzuki students in private and group settings. While a student, Margaret was a scholarship recipient for the Paul Rolland International String Workshop held in Salzburg, Austria, and the Agnes Cooper Memorial Award from Meredith. She was also selected as Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges and was chosen as a member of The Outstanding Young Women of America.

Garriss holds professional memberships with the American String Teacher's Association, The Musician's Association Local 500, The Music Teachers National Association, Music Educators National Conference, The Suzuki Association of the Americas, The Raleigh Music Club, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Pi Kappa Lambda.

Since 1982, Garriss has served as an Associate Coordinator and Director for the Lamar Stringfield Chamber Music Camp held annually at Meredith. She is also a certified non-practicing member of the Feldenkrais Method and she traveled internationally for two years as a musical missionary with the Celebrant Singers organization based in California.

### **Phyllis Garriss**

Phyllis Garriss - is founding director of the Lamar Stringfield String Music Camp. She started the camp in 1979. Garriss felt strongly that music in the Wake County schools should be given full support by the community and wanted to work with the school teachers to build on the progress made in their school-year programs. It is still a primary mission of LSMC, whose faculty includes Wake County music educators. The camp also provides scholarships every summer to those in need.

Previous teaching positions include Meredith College, DePauw University and Ball State University. A former National Secretary of the American String Teachers Association, Garriss is a member of the Music Educators National Conference, the Music Teachers National Association, the American String Teachers Association, Local 500 of the Musicians Association, and past-president of the Raleigh Music Club. She has performed with the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra and the Capital String Ensemble.

### **Jimmy Gilmore**

Jimmy Gilmore - (Assistant Executive Director of NCCMI) – is a native of Dallas, Texas and Principal Clarinetist (ret.) of the North Carolina Symphony. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music and a Master of Science degree from the Juilliard School of Music. Mr. Gilmore was formerly a member of the Rochester Philharmonic and the U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point. A faculty member of Duke University and Meredith College, Mr. Gilmore has made numerous appearances as a soloist and recitalist throughout the Southeast. In addition, he has appeared many times as a concerto soloist with the North Carolina Symphony. In the 2016-17 season, he will be performing the Copland Clarinet Concerto with the Duke Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Gilmore is very active in the Triangle music community, performing regularly with North Carolina Opera and other leading arts organizations. Chamber music has long been an important part of Mr. Gilmore's musical life. He is a founding member of the ensemble, AURORA MUSICALIS and has performed in many recitals in the Carolinas. Mr. Gilmore is also a published writer. His articles have appeared in Opus Magazine, The State Magazine, The Spectator and Clarinetwork. In 1989, his one-act play, The Picture Album

won second prize in the Wachovia Playwrights Competition, a state-wide contest.

### **Elizabeth Beilman**

Elizabeth Beilman- (Executive Director of NCCMI) – is a native of Wichita, Kansas, Ms. Beilman joined the North Carolina Symphony in 1988 and serves as the orchestra's Associate Principal Cello. Since coming to Raleigh, she has performed in numerous recitals and ensembles in N.C. and has appeared as soloist with the North Carolina Symphony. Dedicated to music education, she is Co-founder and Executive Director of NCCMI and Co-Director of the Lamar Stringfield Music Camp. She also maintains a thriving private cello studio. As a founding member of the chamber music ensemble Aurora Musicalis, she has recorded for the Albany label Pulitzer-prize winning composer, Robert Ward composed "ECHOES OF AMERICA" for her chamber music ensemble. In recent years, she has performed with the Breckenridge Music Festival Chamber Orchestra. Before her arrival in N.C., Ms. Beilman was Artist-in Residence for two years at the Banff Centre for the Fine Arts in Alberta, Canada. During that time, she toured throughout Canada, performed with Felix Galamir and with Menachem Pressler of the Beaux Arts Trio, and was featured at the Shawnigan Lake Festival in British Columbia. She is a co-founder of Aurora Musicalis with husband Jimmy Gilmore. Ms. Beilman holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Performance from the Indiana University School of Music. While at I.U., she held a faculty position of Associate Instructor and served as Assistant to Fritz Magg, Distinguished Professor of Music. Other cello teachers were Anner Bylsma, Aldo Parisot and Paul Tortelier. Her extensive background in chamber music includes studies with Rostislav Dubinsky of the Borodin String Quartet, Josef Gingold and Peter Oundjian of the Tokyo String Quartet.

### **Ashley Kovacs**

Ashley graduated in April 2012 from the University of Michigan School of Music with a Bachelor's Degree in Violin Performance. Born and raised in North Carolina, she has been playing the violin since the age of 7, and has always aspired to be a professional violinist. She comes from a musical family: her mother is a violist in the North Carolina Symphony, and her father is a band director and strolling clarinetist and saxophonist. Ashley has attended numerous music festivals around the country, including North Carolina's Brevard Music Festival, Meadowmount School of Music in New York, and the Kennedy Center Summer Music Institute in Washington, D.C.

She has won various competitions in Raleigh and in Michigan, including 2nd place in the Musical Society for the Arts Competition, 1st place in the Robert C. Young String Competition, the first and youngest string player ever to win the Raleigh and Durham Symphony concerto competitions in high school, and the Triangle Youth Philharmonic Concerto Competition. She was also chosen to represent the School of Music in Michigan's "Conservatory Project" and got to perform a solo at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Although Ashley has had an extensive background in Classical music, she is equally as passionate about learning other genres of music such as Irish/Scottish, Bluegrass, Blues, and Swing and was in a Bluegrass band called Swift Creek for two years. She has been recorded on 5 CD's, including playing the music in the background for a T.V. commercial. She is also passionate about teaching multiple genres such as during her 3 years of teaching private Suzuki Violin lessons/Fiddle Class at Meredith College and teaching at Lamar Stringfield Music Camp.

She was also the Strings director at Cardinal Gibbons High School, Our Lady of Lourdes School, and Saint Raphael's School from 2015-2017.

Ashley currently performs regularly with the North Carolina Symphony and various other ensembles in the triangle area and is private teaching in order to have more time with her two children Abigail and Declan.