



# SDMEA String Symposium 2022 Presenters

**SESSION 1: Beth Neitzert- Teaching Students to Tune Independently-** This session will provide resources, strategies, and techniques with regards to teaching beginning students how to tune their own instruments.



Beth Neitzert is the director of orchestras at Huron Middle School and Huron High School. She also conducts the Huron Middle School Honors Orchestra and Huron High School Chamber Orchestra in addition to providing private string lessons. Neitzert holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Huron University and a Master of Music in Music Education from Boston University. She is currently in the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Music Education program at Boston University.

Neitzert is the choir director and church accompanist at Riverview United Methodist Church in Huron. She is an active clinician and adjudicator, violinist for community orchestras and chamber ensembles, and performs regularly as concertmaster of the LyricWood Orchestra at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD. Neitzert is vice president for the South Dakota String Teachers Association as well as a member of ASTA, NAFME, and SDMEA.

## **SESSION 2: Hands-On Violin Family Maintenance Workshop- Josh Rieck**

Here's a chance to get hands on with tools and basic maintenance for orchestral instruments. Topics covered will include diagnosing problems, bridge and soundpost setting, nuts, pegs, seams, tools and hide glue.



Josh Rieck is the owner and luthier at J. Rieck Music in Sioux Falls, SD where he builds and repairs stringed instruments. Josh is a lifelong player with 18 years of experience in lutherie and thousands of completed repairs in both fretted and violin family instruments. He has degrees from Northern State University and the University of South Dakota in double bass performance as well as a degree in fretted stringed instrument repair from Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical in Red Wing, MN.

## **SESSION 3: Mario and Karla Chiarello- "How to Set Up Beginning Bass Students and Keep Them in Your Program"**

## **SESSION 4: Reading Session: Sponsored by Popplers Musicic**

## **SESSION 5: Reading Session: Sponsored by Popplers Music**

## **SESSION 6: Concert by USD String Faculty**

## **SESSION 7: Score Study and Preparation for the Orchestral Conductor: An Approach on Musical Structure"- Dr. Luis Viquez (Director of Orchestras - The University of South Dakota)**

The success of a conductor is inexorably related to the level of preparation, knowledge, and assimilation of the work. In this session, the process of score study and score markings are approached from the theory of "*Taktgruppen*" (grouping of bars) and the anticipation of orchestral tendencies which will benefit conductors to improve their leadership skills.



Since 2016, Dr. Luis Viquez serves as the Director of Orchestras at the University of South Dakota. Equally at home as an orchestral, opera, and wind band conductor, his conducting career features performances throughout the United States, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and England. He is also the conductor and co-music director of the annual production of the University of South Dakota Opera Theater and oversees the graduate program in orchestral conducting. He maintains an active guest conducting schedule both at the regional and international levels including the

recent recording of the album *“Costa Rica Desde Afuera”* with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Heredia and recently received the Outstanding Young Music Educator Award from the South Dakota Music Education Association.

## **SESSION 8: Motivation | Purpose | Planning- Dr. Sonja Kraus**

The phenomenon of feeling overwhelmed by a task that does not result in instant gratification is one that every music instructor is familiar with as many students struggle with the fact that improvement in musical instrument playing is a very gradual and never-ending process. My presentation will tackle aspects of student motivation, procrastination, and reverse scheduling, which will help to break down the big task of learning a musical instrument or a specific new technique into small, achievable goals. Handouts will include samples of classroom or student checkbox charts, systematic checkoff lists for specific technical tasks, as well as practice planners for self-motivated students.

Dr. Sonja Kraus, a native of Germany, is an internationally acclaimed cellist, teacher, and music scholar, whose concertizing and teaching career has taken her through Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the United States. Currently, Kraus holds the position of Assistant Professor of Cello/Bass at the University of South Dakota and is the cellist in the renowned Rawlins Piano Trio. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of South Dakota, Kraus was the Cello Professor at the Universidad de Especialidades Espiritu Santo as well as the principal cellist of the Orquesta Filarmónica Municipal de Guayaquil in Ecuador. Kraus holds her bachelor's in Cello Performance and Pedagogy from the State University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart (Germany) as well as a master's and doctoral degree from the Jacobs School of Music – Indiana University Bloomington where she studied with Prof. Emilio Colón, the 2017 Artist of the year by the New York Classical Music Society. Kraus is a sought-out performer, clinician, and instructor of masterclasses throughout the US, Latin America, and Germany with invitations to the Colegio Universitario San Gerónimo de La Habana (Cuba),



Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico, Jacobs School of Music – Indiana University (IN), Chapman University (CA), and University of Lincoln (NE). Kraus participated in several music festivals around the world including Habana Clásica, the International Chamber Orchestra of Puerto Rico, and the Fresno Summer Orchestra Academy. As a researcher, Kraus focuses on broadening the cello repertoire by identifying manuscripts and creating editions of unpublished cello works from the classical era, currently focusing on three Cello Concertos by Franz Anton Hoffmeister.

**Session 9: "Violin and Viola Scales, Arpeggios and Double-Stops Shortcuts" - Dr. Ioana Galu**

The presentation aims to provide quick and efficient ways to maximize the learning curve for repertoire, etudes, double- stops and scales.

The presentation will offer practical exercises, tools and methods of practice geared for specific technical desired results. Several stages of learning any piece of repertoire will accompany fingering charts for two and three octave scales.

Members in attendance are encouraged to bring their instruments if desired.



"Ioana Galu, a native of Romania, has enjoyed a national and international career in both Europe and the United States. Former Assistant Professor of Violin and chamber music at Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj, Romania, Galu has also been on the faculty at Heidelberg University, Bowling Green State University, and The College of Wooster. In August 2016, Galu joined the University of South Dakota as an Assistant Professor of Violin and member in the Rawlins Piano Trio. She has been on the faculty of the Eastern Music Festival (Greenboro, NC) since 2004.

A graduate of Gheorghe Dima Music Academy, Galu earned a second master's degree in violin performance from Bowling Green State University, an Artist Diploma from University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music and a doctorate in Contemporary Music from Bowling Green State University.

**Galu has been awarded prizes in several national and international competitions, including Second Prize in the Mozart International Competition for Piano Trios (Romania), and First Prize and Special Prize of the SOROS Foundation at the George Enescu Violin National Competition (Romania).**

**In 2014 Galu performed the world premiere of Marilyn Shrude's violin concerto Libro D'Ore with the Central Ohio Symphony and the European premiere with the Sibiu State Philharmonic in Romania. She gave the US premiere in October 2014, and subsequently recorded the concerto for Albany Records. In January 2015, Galu recorded "Music Under Political Unrest" - Works for Two Violins by Grazyna Bacewicz, Henryk Górecki, and Michał Spisak with Iuliana Cotirlea, violin, to be released in the near future.**

**Galu will give the European premiere of Samuel Adler's Violin Concerto in Romania during the next season."**