

Violinist Michael MacLaughlin has worked as a freelance performer and music educator for over fifteen years. He received both a Bachelor's Degree (2011) and a Master's Degree (2019) from Baylor University, and is currently a candidate for a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Violin Performance at the UMKC Conservatory. As an orchestral musician, Michael has performed with the Temple Symphony Orchestra, the Waco Symphony Orchestra, and the Abilene Philharmonic, as well as the Topeka Symphony, Springfield Symphony, and Kansas City's own Midwest Chamber Ensemble, where he serves as Concertmaster. Michael has also been invited to participate in numerous summer programs, including the Round Top Festival Institute, the National Orchestral Institute, and the prestigious Heifetz International Music Institute. Michael is also an advocate for New Music and has premiered several works as a soloist and as a founding member of Enso New Music, Baylor's flagship New Music ensemble. As a UMKC conservatory student, Michael performed as part of the Graduate Fellowship String Quartet from 2020-2023 and has also collaborated with conservatory composers to premiere and perform over 30 new compositions in the last 3 years. A passionate pedagogue, Michael has been a trained Suzuki violin and viola instructor since 2008, and now serves as a violin and viola instructor at the Kansas City Suzuki Academy and is the current Vice President of the Heart of America Suzuki Association.