

## **TEACHER /VIOLIST /COMPOSER**

**Lisa Ralia Heffter**

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### **Viola Teacher**

- 2015- present CMC (Chamber Music Center) coach chamber music sessions to gifted middle and high school students; culminating concerts at Weill; exchange with Switzerland
- 2008 - present ArtsAhimsa Music Festival in Lenox - summer coach of chamber music to adult professional amateurs for performances at Belvoir Terrace
- 2004 -present The Calhoun School  
teaching classes 5th grade -12th grade violin/viola /cello  
conducting middle school and upper school orchestras  
teaching private music students strings and composition

### **Performer**

- 2018 *Schubert Cello Quintet* (National Opera Center)
- 2017 *Ravel String Quartet* (CMC at Columbia U's Masion Francais)
- 2017 *Shostakovich Piano Quintet* (ArtsAhimsa Chamber Players)
- 2017 *Epitaph* for chorus and solo viola (soloist for DCINY at Lincoln Center)
- 2015 - present DAHA (Dvorak American Heritage Association) Dvorak quartets/quintets
- 2008 - present DCINY Orchestra at Carnegie
- 2007 Beijing Chamber Ensemble (principal violist)
- 1998 - 2002 Elysium String Quartet (Weill debut/toured Greece)
- 1985 -present Bordeaux String Quartet (Rudin Management) NYC public concerts
- 1983-1985 Manfred String Quartet, France (toured Europe)
- 1978-1983 Juilliard School, BM and MM
- 1978 Tanglewood Festival principal / Award for Orchestral Excellence

### **Composer:**

- Eschapè* flute quartet - NY Times review "...astonishingly beautiful"
- Into the Stars of Infinity* - premier in Brazil/ cellist Marjana Rutkowski
- From Deep Space* - piano trio (Neave Piano Trio premier)
- Fugit Tempus* - piano quartet
- Rage* - fury for violin and piano (violinist Laura Goldberg premier)
- Meadows of Gold* - fantasy for piano and violin (Nikita Morozov premier w/ Martin Perry, piano)
- Carbon Fiber String Quartet #1*
- Nadja's Dream* (string trio) / *Viola/Cello* duet /*Viola Suite in G* solo
- Various original music and arrangements tailored for students*

October 28, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to recommend my long-time colleague Lisa Hefter.

I recently retired after 19 years as Head of the Calhoun School, a leading private school in Manhattan. Lisa served on the music faculty for a significant part of my tenure. I know her and her work very well, in part because I am a violinist and was very active in the school's music program. Among the great semi-guilty pleasures of my work were frequent opportunities to play and perform chamber music with Lisa and others.

Lisa is a marvelous teacher, in every respect. Her students adored her and were motivated by her good spirit, high enthusiasm and vibrant energy.

I believe teachers must also be highly accomplished performers in their own right. Lisa is a superb violist and exceptionally insightful musician. Playing alongside or across from Lisa provided some of the most satisfying musical experiences I've ever enjoyed.

She is also a gifted composer. I have listened to and performed her work and have the highest admiration for her craft and artistry.

Along with these qualities, Lisa was simply a joy to work with. Lisa was always flexible, accommodating, cheerful and dependable.

I recommend Lisa with the highest possible enthusiasm and would gladly provide more detailed information if it would be helpful. I can be reached at [stevehutnelson@gmail.com](mailto:stevehutnelson@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson  
Head (ret.) Calhoun School  
1998-2017

## ***Comments from students and parents:***

*“Thank you so much for helping me today! I feel really inspired - I was feeling pretty down about this piece, but I think today's lesson reminded me of the joy of playing it and practicing it isn't a chore anymore, it's a pleasure. Seriously, I've got tears in my eyes ... I had so much fun...And I'm so grateful for your guidance ...your teaching has really made a difference.”*

*- Bronx Science 12th grader, Gabrielle Sevillano*

*“Thank you for your time, your positive energy, your musical expertise, and your kind words of encouragement here! We feel like we have hit the jackpot with this new relationship with you and are very excited about the arrangements you have created so far and to continue working with you.*

*- Jennifer Kingston, mother of The Kingston Trio*

*“She was **very** excited to get back to business with you today ”*

*- Dawn Lester, mother of 7th grade Calhoun student*

*“...you've inspired me so much to practice and play and improve. I haven't felt this way since I was a kid, and I am loving it!”*

*- new high school student email after first lesson*

*“...Thank you so much for tonight's wonderful performance! Katie and I had such an incredible time (at Carnegie). Her face completely lit up when she saw you on stage. This was her first orchestra performance so it will be a memory that will last forever. Thank you again. We are so lucky to have you as her teacher! “*

*-Cynthia Kim, mother of 6th grade violin student*