

Ethan Filner joined the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra as Assistant Principal Viola in 2019; the Alberta Baroque Ensemble as Principal Viola in 2021; and the viola section of the Chamber Orchestra of Edmonton in 2023. He is the founding violist of the High Level Trio (www.highleveltrio.com), active in Northern Alberta since 2021 as performers, educators, commissioners and recording artists of new music, and creators of both the Windsor Park Chamber Music Workshop and the new “High Level Trio & Friends” chamber music series. In 2022 the HLT were awarded grants from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Canada Council for the Arts to commission and record a new work from Edmonton-based composer John Estacio - *Navigations* - which they premiered and recorded in 2023. They will be performing *Navigations* live onstage with Ballet Edmonton in May 2024.

Before he moved to Edmonton, Ethan was Assistant Principal Viola in the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony; taught viola at the University of Toronto; and maintained a busy freelancing career performing throughout Ontario, appearing regularly with the Toronto Symphony and National Arts Centre Orchestras as well as the Canadian Opera Company, National Ballet of Canada, the Hamilton Philharmonic, and the Toronto Concert Orchestra. He has been featured repeatedly on the legendary Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society series, presenting several solo viola and chamber music programs during his brief time in the region.

From 2001-2016 Ethan was the violist of the internationally acclaimed San Francisco-based Cypress String Quartet (www.cypressquartet.com). The CSQ performed extensively throughout North America on chamber music series big and small: from Cal Performances to the Kennedy Center, from Key West, Florida to Sitka, Alaska; and in Europe from Vienna to Assisi, Prague to Munich. They recorded nearly twenty string quartet albums including the complete String Quartets of Beethoven, the Schubert Cello Quintet with Gary Hoffman, and the Brahms Sextets with Barry Shiffman and Zuill Bailey; and commissioned and premiered dozens of new works from great composers of our time like Jennifer Higdon, Kevin Puts, Elena Ruehr, Benjamin Lees, George Tsontakis, Chen Yi, and Dan Coleman. As the Cypress Quartet's violist Ethan led collegiate viola and chamber music master classes at universities and conservatories across North America and in Europe; and together with his colleagues presented hundreds of educational outreach programs reaching thousands of students of all ages. The CSQ spent several years as Quartet-in-Residence at San Jose State University's School of Music, where Ethan taught viola, directed the chamber music program, helped develop and run a noontime concert series featuring visiting a wonderful variety of guest artists, and created an annual String Day chamber music workshop which brought high school music students from around the Bay Area to the SJSU campus.

For the year leading up to his move to Canada in 2016, Ethan was Co-ordinator of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-college String Chamber Music Program, and for a few years before that he was the Associate Director of the Sequoia Chamber Music Workshop at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. As President of the Northern California Viola Society from 2008-13, Ethan led the creation of such epically nerdy viola celebrations as “ViolaMANIA” and “Violas on a Roll;” and founded an annual “Young Violists Competition” and its associated “Composition Contest.” More recently, Ethan has found himself on the regular

coaching faculty for the ECMS's Summer Solstice Music Workshop as well as the Wye Strings Camp outside of Sherwood Park.

Notable chamber music collaborations since Ethan's move to Canada have included performances with the Gryphon Trio, members of Trio Arkel and the LARK Ensemble, the Penderecki and Zemlinsky String Quartets, Magisterra Soloists, violinist Mark Fewer and clarinetist James Campbell. He has enjoyed performing chamber music concerts with music faculty at the University of Toronto and Wilfred Laurier in Waterloo, members of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and the Toronto Symphony, National Arts Centre, Canadian Opera Company, National Ballet of Canada, and Hamilton Philharmonic orchestras — and of course with many of his colleagues in the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Ethan was a member of the Polyponie String Quartet (composed of fellow ESO members) when their performance of Tanya Tagaq's *Sivittinni* was featured in an ESO concert showcasing her music. He has appeared in concerts for both the Edmonton Recital Society and the Edmonton Chamber Music Society, the C'mon Festival, the Rosebud Chamber Music Festival, and as a concerto soloist with the Alberta Baroque Ensemble. Ethan makes his ESO solo debut in December 2023 with a performance of Freddie Mercury's *Bohemian Rhapsody* arranged by Nicholas Hersh for viola and orchestra.

Ethan plays a modern Italian viola made by Vittorio Bellarosa in Naples in 1947, and a bow by Garner Wilson. Learn more - browse his discography, see some of his amateur landscape and portrait photography - at his website, www.ethanfilner.com