

# LIVING MUSIC

## A Glimpse into the Professional Lives of the Musicians of the KSCC

by Monica Buffington

It's 10 minutes before the start of the KSCC concert. You settle into your seat and hear the sounds of musicians warming up on stage. You watch final preparations, conversations between colleagues, oboists working on their reeds. The lights dim, the music begins, and you enjoy the art of the orchestra. Ever wonder about the people behind those glorious sounds? Join us this season as we peek inside the professional lives of the musicians of the Kennett Symphony of Chester County.

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This concert, we feature four musicians who perform in KSCC string sections: **Concertmaster Eliezer Gutman, violinist Tom Jackson, violist Nina Cottman and cellist Mark Ward.** Separately, these four string players lead the busy lives of professional freelance musicians weaving orchestral performance, chamber music performance, and teaching into their weekly schedules. Many times their separate musical lives intersect and they find themselves performing together in numerous concert halls of the region. For instance, their combined years of performance experience with the Kennett Symphony Orchestra of Chester County is 95 years, and they have 86 years of combined performance with the Delaware Symphony! They also perform together in the Copeland String Quartet, whose schedule includes a chamber concert series and outreach concerts in schools, reaching over 1,200 students per year.

They estimate that each month they perform concerts featuring the music of as many as 20 different composers. Add in travel time to weekly rehearsals and concerts, teaching, pick-up "gigs" like weddings and corporate events, and individual practice and you get an idea of the whirlwind of activity that makes up their lives in music. Below is a list of the myriad organizations in which at least one of these four KSCC musicians regularly performs. It is an interesting glimpse into how these individual members of the KSCC connect to the larger musical environment of our region:

**Orchestras:**

Kennett, Allentown, Bay-Atlantic, Delaware, Delaware County, Pottstown and Reading symphonies; Ocean City Pops, Philly Pops, Opera Delaware, Opera Company of Philadelphia, PA Sinfonia, Camerata Ama Deus, Ama Deus Ensemble

**Chamber Groups:**

Copeland String Quartet, Chadds Ford Strings, Siena Strings, Stringations, Tessera Chamber Players, Wilmington String Ensemble

**Teaching:**

Private studio, First State Youth Orchestra, Settlement Music School, St. Andrews High School, Wesley College, Wilmington Music School/Music School of Delaware, Valley Forge Christian College

**ESPECIALLY FOR YOU:** Here's what Tom, Mark, Nina and Eliezer would like our KSCC audiences to know about LIVING MUSIC:

“I have been performing music since I was a teenager. I'm never tired of it. It is always a challenge to do a better job each concert and nail everything! As a freelance musician, I enjoy mixing with other musicians in a constant change of scenery and environments.”

**Tom Jackson, KSCC violinist**

“I am serious and passionate about the work that I do, and happy to be a musician because I am so often involved in performing some of the greatest achievements of mankind.” **Mark Ward, KSCC cellist**

“I love being a violist. I'm really happy I chose music as a career. It has been a wonderful way to see the world and meet a variety of people that I can't imagine I would meet in any other profession.” **Nina Cottman, violist**

“Simply stated: I love what I do.” **Eliezer Gutman, KSCC Concertmaster**



Hear KSCC musicians (l to r) **Tom Jackson, Mark Ward, Nina Cottman** and **Eliezer Gutman** in concert as the Copeland String Quartet. For details and a complete concert schedule, visit [www.copelandstringquartet.com](http://www.copelandstringquartet.com)