

James Nixon Curry

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University — *Evanston, Illinois*

DOCTOR OF MUSIC in Cello Performance 2006
Studied with Hans Jorgen Jensen, chamber music with Pacifica Quartet
Dissertation: “Body Music: An Examination of the Physical and Mental Similarities of Sports Performance and String Music Performance”

MASTER OF MUSIC in Cello Performance 1999
Studied with Hans Jorgen Jensen, chamber music with Victor Yampolsky

Vanderbilt University — *Nashville, Tennessee*

BACHELOR OF MUSIC in Cello Performance *cum laude* 1997
Studied with Grace Mihi Bahng, chamber music with John Kochanowski

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of North Florida — *Jacksonville, Florida* 2007–present
Assistant Professor of Music, tenure-track
Founding Member of Trio Florida, the University’s professional piano trio

Applied Cello Lessons

- Increased weekly lesson time allotment (50 minutes per week is standard) for all cello majors to two lessons per week tallying 100 minutes for first three years. Extra time is now earned by students through diligence in studying and as preparation for upcoming concerts and contests. Neither students nor professor receive credit or compensation for the extra time, but this ensures that students would develop at a faster rate and more strongly encouraged healthy and solid techniques in the lessons. The more consistent practice affords a consistency in the rate of individual improvement. The combination of cello class and weekly extra lessons allows students 3.5 times the amount of instruction generally expected and was a major revision to the applied cello syllabus.

- Cello student Brittany Maroney (B.M., Cello Performance '11) was recognized as most outstanding musician in the department every year she attended UNF. Maroney had never studied the instrument privately prior to attending UNF.
- Hannah Hoffman was named outstanding freshman musician in 2012. Hoffman was named the Florida American String Teachers Association Young Artist of the Year for 2011. Hoffman soloed with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.
- Andre Washington was named outstanding junior musician in 2012. Washington won the UNF concerto competition in 2012.
- Three students have been admitted to the Meadowmount School of Music, which is one of the elite string summer music institutions in the country.

Masterclasses

- Created and facilitated master classes for UNF and community string students with highly acclaimed artists Antonio Meneses (cellist in Beaux Arts Trio), Matt Haimovitz, Alisa Weilerstein, Eric Stephenson, Hans Jorgen Jensen, Greg Sauer, Alban Gerhardt, Mike Block, Lynn Harrell, Wilhelmina Smith and Felix Wang. Haimovitz, Meneses, Harrell, Gerhardt, and Weilerstein are world renowned concert soloists performing concerti with the leading orchestras in the world. Hans Jensen and Lynn Harrell have both been named ASTA Artist Teachers of the Year, the highest teaching honor one can receive in the United States.
- In addition to providing opportunities to our students to learn from some of today's leading musicians, these masterclasses provided a forum for community members to actively witness the growth in the string area at UNF, as well as to benefit from the guest artists' expertise.

Cello Class

- Created a weekly cello performance/technique class that is also attended by several non-cellists.
- This two-hour class is a supplement to the Applied Lesson Syllabus created to give the students further in-depth instruction, again for no credit or financial compensation.
- The students cultivate technical exercises, perform for one another, learn to analyze and constructively criticize performance techniques verbally.
- Above all, this class helps UNF students learn how to teach and how to perform.

String Quartet

- Created opportunities for the students to perform for professional string quartets, including the Enso String Quartet, the Jupiter String Quartet, the Harlem String Quartet, the Cypress String Quartet, the Blakemore Piano Trio, the Claremont Piano Trio, the Ying String Quartet, Quartetto Gelato, Brooklyn Rider, Time for Three, and Copland House chamber musicians.
- Multiple student string quartets have prepared and performed full recital programs in Jacksonville. One quartet was invited to perform at the state conference (American Choral Directors Association) with the collegiate women's honor chorus, providing valuable performance experience while simultaneously recruiting for UNF.
- Cello student Hannah Hoffman collaborated with Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Philip Pan in a chamber music performance during the 2011–2012 academic year.

Other Courses

Chamber Music
African American Musical Heritage
Enjoyment of Music
String Pedagogy
String Repertory
Performance Lab

Teaching Accolades

- I have been nominated on four different occasions for the University's Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, in 2008 (not eligible), 2010, 2011, 2012.
- ISQ evaluations have been well above average for all courses.
- Department chair has given ratings of exemplary in the three categories of teaching, research, and service for each year.

Private Teaching Studio

1995–present

Teaching non-major, pre-college, and college students applied cello lessons.

University of South Dakota — Vermillion, South Dakota

2004–2007

Assistant Professor of Music, tenure-track

Member of Rawlins Piano Trio, the University's professional trio

- Created the largest cello section in the history of the University
- Nearly tripled the size of the cello section in university orchestra
- More than tripled the number of All-State cellists in the section

- Performed and instructed masterclasses at an average of 30 high schools per year with Rawlins Piano Trio to recruit students
- Coached the Townsley Graduate Piano Trio
- *Courses Taught:* Music 100: Classical Music Appreciation for non-music majors, applied cello lessons to majors and non-majors, cello class, Chamber Orchestra (undergraduate and graduate students)

Northwestern University — Evanston, Illinois 1999–2004
Teaching Assistant for Hans Jorgen Jensen, Professor of Cello.

Vanderbilt University — Nashville, Tennessee 1994–1997
Teaching Assistant for Grace Mihi Bahng.

Summer Engagements as Faculty Artist

Meadowmount School of Music — Westport, New York 2012
Duties included teaching over 40 students, giving a master class, running technique class. Meadowmount is one of the most well respected string camps for string players in the country. Students at the camp were major competition winners and many of them had performed as soloists with major orchestras. Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman are Meadowmount alumni.

Tennessee Valley Summer Music Festival — Huntsville, Alabama 2009–present
Responsibilities include two daily master classes, daily chamber music coachings, playing in faculty orchestra with top students, and performing chamber music with the faculty string quartet.

North Florida Summer Music Camp — Jacksonville, FL 2009–present

Triada Music Festival — Ludlow, Vermont 2006–2007
Participated as guest faculty artist as well as faculty-in-residence teaching masterclasses, coaching chamber music, and teaching private lessons.

Meadowmount Summer Music Festival — Westport, NY 1999–2004
Teaching Assistant for Hans Jorgen Jensen.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

DOM Special Events Coordinator

2007–2012

- Coordinated the annual Florida Community College Music Symposium creating and managing the budget and all symposium events and spaces, ensuring that the event would be a positive recruiting tool for our University.
- For three consecutive years, 300 students and over 30 professors from all over Florida visited our campus for three days of orchestra, band, chorus, piano ensemble, guitar ensemble, and jazz band.
- Master classes were arranged for each instrument and a Young Artist contest was held in which the winners were awarded \$1000 if they chose to attend UNF. UNF faculty and ensembles performed department showcases each year.
- In addition to coordinating and planning these concerts, planned the Winner's Recital, as well as the Honor Ensemble Concert for guitar, band, chorus, orchestra, piano, and jazz ensemble.
- Coordinated the Florida Bandmasters Association North State Conference. This involved reserving spaces, coordinating nearly 50 buses, greeting band conductors, coordinating stage crew setups, showing each band the building and making sure the event went smoothly.

Recruitment Coordinator

2010–present

- Coordinating admissions between admissions and the department.
- Appointed due to my proven track record in recruiting. Colleague Simon Shiao (violin) and I have nearly doubled the size of the orchestra since 2007 through our joint efforts.
- I have personally more than tripled the number of cello majors during my five years at UNF.

Area Coordinator of the String Area

2011–present

- Area Coordinators meet multiple times per month to discuss pressing issues in the department including but not limited to admissions, scholarship, practice rooms, online applications, course loads, operating budget and how to save COAS money and out of state waivers.
- This position was voted on by fellow faculty members, the chair and the dean of arts and sciences.

Fundraising Activities

2007–present

- Coordinated scholarships from Deermeadows Baptist Church for deserving music students. The scholarships total in excess of \$12,000 a year. They provide the students performing experience on their instruments and the students get money towards their tuition and for gas money. Deermeadows now sponsors six UNF music students, one of whom was cello student Brittany Maroney who was one of the first to receive a scholarship. Cello student Andre Washington now holds the cello scholarship. This has matured into a great relationship between the church and UNF with the number of scholarships increasing each year.
- Alongside Professor Charlotte Mabrey, applied for and was awarded student government funding to bring in high level performers for the 2008–2009 school year. The star attraction was Project who gave a concert in Robinson, gave master classes for the students and gave performances during our performance lab and also at Douglas Anderson high school.
- Cello students Andre Washington and Hannah Hoffman were both awarded TLO's to travel to Meadowmount School of Music for the summer of 2012.

Other UNF Service

Member, UNF Department of Music Scholarship Committee 2008–present

University Athletic Committee 2009–present

- Voted assistant chair for 2010–2011 academic year
- Re-elected in spring of 2012 to the committee for another term

Member, UNF Flagship Committee 2007–2009

Arranged performances and master classes of Christopher Smith (musicologist from Texas Tech University) and Barbara Moser (world-renowned pianist).

Prior University Service

Choral Conductor Search Committee, University of South Dakota 2006–2007

Department of Music Scholarship Committee, University of South Dakota 2005–2007

Recruiting Committee, Music Department, University of South Dakota 2004–2007

- Presidential Scholarship Committee, University of South Dakota 2004–2007
- Reviewed applicants and held interviews for the University’s most prestigious scholarship awards

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Professional Affiliations

Florida American String Teachers Association (ASTA), *Officer of Special Projects*
 Internet Cello Society
 Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)
 The College Music Society (CMS)
 Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA)
 Florida Federation of Music Clubs

Professional Service

Judged University of Florida Concerto Competition	Fall 2011
Adjudicator, Brass Ring competition in Ponte Vedra Beach	2008–2011
Adjudicator, final auditions for the Florida All-State Orchestra	2008–2009
Adjudicator, Jacksonville Youth Symphony Concerto Competition	2008
Promoted Trio Florida in both the University’s <i>Spinnaker</i> and in the <i>Florida Times Union</i> leading to published articles about the group	2007
Adjudicator, South Dakota All-State Orchestra Auditions	2005–2007
Adjudicator, Lucy Weed String Competition (preliminary contest for American String Teachers Association)	2006
Judge, Music Teachers National Association regional contest	2006
Judge, Vermillion Music Club	2005
Judge, South Dakota Music Teachers National Association	2004

AWARDS, HONORS, AND SELECTED PERFORMANCES

Personal professional performances during my tenure at the University of North Florida include solo and chamber music performances in seven different countries in addition to performances specific to public school children as a performing artist with Jacksonville’s Project Listen associated with the Riverside Fine Arts Association. This involves traveling to local schools and

introducing young children to music in approximately eight performances per academic year.

Listed below are the highlights of a busy performance schedule.

Recordings

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| <i>Service of Darkness</i> , Bill Wren & Frank Ralls (upcoming release) | September 2012 |
| Gary Smart album, Albany Records (upcoming release) | recorded 2012 |
| • CD featuring Trio Florida | |
| <i>Journey Around the Sun: A Mayan Odyssey</i> , Bill Wren & Frank Ralls | 2011 |
| • Nominated for ZMR Music Awards as Album of the Year and Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. | |
| • Album hit #1 on the new age radio charts in 2011 and #2 on the world music charts on CD Baby. | |
| • Available for purchase on CD Baby, iTunes, and Amazon. | |
| • Played across the US and internationally on Sirius XM Radio. | |
| <i>When I Sing</i> , University of North Florida Chamber Singers | 2011 |
| <i>A Day in the Life</i> , Bill Wren & Frank Ralls | 2008 |
| • The song “En Mai,” on which I was featured, hit #1 in the Classical and Contemporary categories on the indie chart Soundclick. | |
| • Album hit #1 on FM new age music radio stations around the U.S. in 2010 | |
| • Available for purchase on CD Baby, iTunes, and Amazon. | |
| • Played across the US and internationally on Sirius XM Radio. | |

Television and Radio

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| Oprah Winfrey’s <i>Lovetown USA</i> , OWN TV
Performance on the nationally televised reality show season finale scheduled to air in fall 2012. | March 2012 |
| Two performances on the Channel 4 News in Jacksonville | 2011 |
| Live solo performance on WJCT radio, Jacksonville. Florida | April 2010 |
| WJCT Public TV and Radio
Performed with Philip Pan and Rhonda Cassano at The Players Club at Sawgrass | September 2008 |
| Taped radio broadcast for the Music on the Hill Concert Series in Atlanta, Georgia | June 2008 |

Performed on the King Amati cello (c. 1538) as a soloist on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*. This performance was broadcast nationwide on NPR and was rebroadcast repeatedly. The concert was heard by four thousand people live and by millions live on radio. Was the only faculty member selected by Garrison Keillor for this concert. April 29, 2006

Performed a concert broadcast on KVNO, Omaha, Nebraska, with the Rawlins Piano Trio as part of the Organ Vespers Series September 2004

Premieres

Premiered Daniel Bernard Roumain's *I Need You* in South Africa with the UNF Chamber Singers April–May 2012

Premiered a number of original works by UNF faculty member Gary Smart including his Piano Trio, a trio with clarinet, and his piano quartet.

International Performances

Performed as a soloist on Daniel Bernard Roumain's *I Need You*, premiering the work in Port Elizabeth, George, Paarl, and Cape Town, South Africa with the UNF Chamber Singers April–May 2012

Concert in Feldkirchen, Austria at the Musikademie of Feldkirchen for some of the region's most gifted teachers and students July 2011

Concert in Ljubljana, Slovenija on the prestigious Imago Slovenia Concert Series July 2011

Solo performance in Paris, France in the Eglise Saint-Augustin July 2011

Solo Performance in Pussigny, France July 2011

Concert in Istanbul, Turkey at the English Chaplaincy to raise funds to restore the church's organ damaged in terrorist bombings June 2011

Concert in Barcelona, Spain presented by the Associacio Musical de Mestres Directors at the Centre San Pere Apostol June 2011

Performances with Rawlins Piano Trio in Taiwan December 2004,
Locations including Kaohsiung Cultural Center, Taipei, May 2006
Kenting, I-Shou University, Soochow University, Taiwan
University School of the Arts, Taipei Municipal University of
Education, Normal University, as well as in the cities of Feng
Shin and ShiShin.

Selected U.S. Performances, 2007–present

Founding Member, Trio Florida	2007–present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed in the fall of 2007 with colleagues Gary Smart and Simon Shiao. • This is the first full-time faculty chamber ensemble in the history of the University. • The trio performs multiple times every year at venues such as Cypress Village, Vicars Landing, on the EMMA concert series in Saint Augustine, on the Amelia Island Concert Series and also performs outreach concerts at local schools. • Our trio was recently selected to perform at the College Music Society National Conference in the fall of 2013. 	
Featured soloist with the UNF chamber orchestra, chorale, and chamber singers	2007–present
Performed at MOCA with Jacksonville Symphony Concertmaster Philip Pan and JSO principal harpist Kayo Ishimaru	Spring 2012
Performances and solos with Trans-Siberian Orchestra	2011–2012
Solo recital at Prelude Music Camp	June 2011
Performer at Saint Augustine Music Festival	Summer 2011
Multiple performances with Grammy Hall of Famer Johnny Mathis	Spring 2011
Substitute member of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra	2007–present
Cellist, Jacksonville Symphony at Roger Nierenberg’s Music Paradigm	May 2010
Mostly Mozart Concert Series, Brunswick Georgia	February 2010
Soloist with Tennessee Valley Music Festival Orchestra	June 2009
The Cummer Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Jacksonville	June 2009
Guest string artist with 3-time Grammy Award nominees Tiempo Libre in UNF’s Lazarra Hall	April 2009
Narrator, The Copland House in residence at UNF	March 2009

Formed a string quartet with Jacksonville Symphony members, Performing two concerts, one of which was on the Mostly Mozart concert series in Georgia	Spring 2009
Performed with soprano Cara Tasher (UNF) and French pianist Laurent Boukobza (USF) at Jacksonville’s Friday Musicale	January 2009
The Delius Foundation with JSO concertmaster Philip Pan	November 2008
Cellist with world-renowned pianist Eric Genius at the Florida Theatre	April 2008
Featured soloist with the Jacksonville Mass Choir	April 2008
University of Florida (Gainesville, FL) Bach Concert with Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra members	Spring 2008
Riverside Fine Arts Series, multiple engagements	2008–present
JCA Concert Series performance with JSO flutist Rhonda Cassano and clarinetist Guy Yehuda	January 2008
Chamber Music Society of Good Shepherd, multiple engagements	2007–present

Conference Presentations

Chosen as featured clinician at “Cellobration” in Orlando. Worked with over sixty pre-college cellists at this event, conducted them in concert, and gave a masterclass.	April 2012
Presented “Recruiting Basics for College Educators.” at the American String Teachers National Conference. Was chosen to present based on submission of proposal.	March 2012
Presented “Practicing Intonation on a String Instrument” at the College Music Society’s regional conference in the spring of 2012 with students Hannah Hoffman and Andre Washington assisting. Chosen after submitting proposal.	February 2012
Presented “Dr. Nick’s Steps to Practicing Intonation on a String Instrument” at the FMEA music conference in Tampa, FL in 2011. Cello students Hannah Hoffman and Andre Washington assisted the presentation. Chosen based on a submission to the FMEA board.	January 2011
Chosen as the featured clinician at “Cellobration” in Boca Raton. Led 80+ cello students in performances and in a masterclass. Past clinicians were professors from the Berklee College of Music, the University of Texas at Austin, the	November 2010

University of Michigan and the University of South Carolina, among others. Six of my UNF cello students also attended and participated as assistants and performers.

Presenter, “Principles of Sound for String Instruments” at the state music conference in Tampa, FL for nearly 100 string teachers. Assisted by UNF student Brittany Maroney. As a result of this class, an invitation was sent to do the same presentation at many schools around the state including Vero Beach and Timber Creek High Schools and Lavilla School of the Performing Arts, all strong recruiting contacts for our department’s future. Chosen based on submission made to the FMEA board. *January 2009*

Performed with Gary Smart and Guy Yehuda at both the FSMTA conference in Gainesville and also at the College Music Society National Conference in Atlanta *May, June 2008*

Lectured at the FSMTA conference including a UNF cello student demonstration, “Principals of Sound on the Cello.” Simultaneously arranged and prepared student to play for University of Florida cello professor Stephen Thomas. *June 2008*

Presented “Body Music: An Examination of the Physical and Mental Similarities of Sports Performance and String Music Performance,” at the South Dakota Music Educators Association conference *February 2006*

Awards, Honors, and Performances prior to UNF appointment

Performed with the assistant principal cellist in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and performed with world famous string teachers Almita and Roland Vamos while teaching at the Triada Music Festival.

Performances with Rawlins Trio on concert series in Owatonna and Mankato Minnesota *February 2007*

Performance with Rawlins Trio on Rapid City concert series *September 2006*

Soloist at the Triada Music Festival, Ludlow, Vermont *June–July 2006*

Concert with Rawlins Piano Trio, Vanderbilt University *March 2006*

Soloist with the USD Chamber Singers and Honor Choir, South Dakota Music Educators Association conference *February 2006*

Soloist with the Sioux Empire Youth Orchestra, Sioux Falls *January 2006*

Soloist with the USD Symphony Orchestra, Vermillion *November 2005*

Concert with Rawlins Piano Trio at Brookings Chamber Series	March 2005
Soloist with USD Chamber Orchestra, Vermillion	December 2004
Concert with Rawlins Piano Trio, Northwestern University	November 2004
Concert with Rawlins Piano Trio, Organ Vespers Series, Omaha	September 2004
Winner, Northwestern Chamber Music Competition	2001
Soloist, Northwestern Philharmonia Orchestra	2000

PUBLICATIONS

Author

“Dr. Nick’s Steps to Practicing Intonation,” *American String Teacher*, November 2011.

- The article was chosen based on a submission to the nation’s premiere string journal, published quarterly.

“Interview with composer Richard Meyer,” *American String Teacher*, November 2010.

- Commissioned Meyer to write a work for the 7th and 8th grade Florida All-State orchestra and the interview discussed this work and his compositional techniques.

Body Music: An Examination of the Physical and Mental Similarities of Sports Performance and String Music Performance. Dissertation published by the Oregon Microform Publication in Sport and Human Performance, 2006. Abstract published in *Kinesiology Abstracts* Vol. 19 No. 2.

Reviewer

Reviewer, *American String Teacher* journal Spring 2012–present

- Selected as reviewer for music and recordings in the nation’s premiere string journal.

Kristine Forney, Andrew Dell’Antonio, and Joseph Machlis, *Enjoyment of Music: Essential Learning Edition*, second edition (forthcoming). New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013. Selected chapters. June 2010

Joseph Kerman and Gary Tomlinson, *Listen*, seventh edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s Press, 2011. Unit 1: Fundamentals. June 2009

MASTERCLASSES

Lynn Harrell
Ralph Kirschbaum
Harvey Shapiro
David Finckel
Norman Fisher
Paul Katz
Emerson String Quartet
Pacifica String Quartet
Blair String Quartet