

INDUCTEE

Daniel Mason

Graduated1969

ResidesLexington, Kentucky

In high school Dan's interest were broadly academic and he belonged to service clubs as well. He was inducted into Quill and Scroll and National Honor Society. But even then his passion was music. He was the concertmaster for the GLHS orchestra, but more significantly the concertmaster for the Columbus Youth Symphony, 1st chair violinist in the all-Ohio orchestra and recipient of superior ratings four years in a row at the state music contests.

He began playing the violin in the fifth grade under the instruction of Robert Kessler, who encouraged him to study privately with Capital University student Carol Huber. She arranged for Dan to audition for her teacher, Andrew Lisko, with whom he studied through eleventh grade. He then entered the class of Robert Gerle at the Ohio State University and remained there to complete the Bachelor of Music degree. He was the winner of the Columbus Symphony Young Artist Competition and performed as soloist with the orchestra in twelfth grade. Dan played a great deal of chamber music and coached with Rolland Vamos. As an Ohio State University undergraduate, he was a member of the Columbus Symphony. He says he is extremely grateful to all who nurtured his development.

Violinist Daniel Mason has performed widely in the United States and Europe, gaining wide recognition both as a soloist and as a chamber musician. His activities have included live national radio broadcasts from WFMT in Chicago, frequent appearances on NPR's Performance Today and performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington. He was a member of the Jascha Heifetz Master Class at the University of Southern California for three years, earning a Master of Music degree. Mr. Mason is currently in his twenty-third year as Professor of Violin and Head of the String Department at the University of Kentucky. His is concertmaster of the Lexington Philharmonic and was also, for seventeen years, concertmaster of the New Hampshire Music Festival Orchestra, appearing many times in a solo role with both orchestras.

Mr. Mason has recently given master classes and performances in Korea and China, appearing as soloist with the Tianjin Symphony Orchestra and has performed as soloist in Brazil with the Espirito Santo Philharmonic Orchestra of Vitoria. He served on the faculty of the 17th CINVES Festival in Brazil in January, 2006. Mr. Mason's travels have taken him to Austria, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy, Turkey, and the Republic of Georgia. Of particular note was his 2001 performance with the Leonore Quartet in the Galleria Accademia in Florence, Italy, his work with the faculty of the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music-sponsored Opera and Music Festival of Lucca, Italy; and his involvement with the Kentucky Institute of International Studies program in Salzburg, Austria.

An enthusiastic advocate of recent music, Mr. Mason has recorded a CD of chamber music by noted American composer Joel Hoffman released by Gasparo Records. He has performed the music of many other composers, working in consultation with them, including John Cage, David Amram, William Bolcom, Bernard Rands and Joseph Baber.

He also directs the University of Kentucky String Project, for which he received a \$100,000 grant from the American String Teachers Association. The Project trains string teachers while providing affordable instruction to more than 100 area children.

Professor Mason's students have won positions in the Chicago Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic, West Virginia Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, Charleston Symphony, Cedar Rapids Symphony and others, as well as teaching positions at universities around the nation.

When time permits, Dan heads for the mountains for excursions such as a recent traverse of the entire Sierra Nevada range in California, including the summit of Mr. Whitney.