

Violinist Noel Martin, lives in Houston, Texas where he performs with a variety of ensembles and teaches at the University of St Thomas. He is currently a member of the Houston Ballet Orchestra and has performed with many orchestras including the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, Houston Chamber Orchestra, *Maggini*, Houston Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, and Orchestra X. He has been assistant concertmaster of the Missouri Symphony, the Kingston Opera Festival, and concertmaster of the *Amadeus* Ensemble, and the *Alfredo St Malo* Chamber Orchestra, an international ensemble based in Panama. He has appeared as soloist with a number of groups including the Baylor Symphony, the *Amadeus* Ensemble, and Mercury, The Orchestra Redefined.

Mr Martin plays baroque violin with groups such as Mercury, Bach Soloists of Houston, *Ars Lyrica*, St Cecilia Baroque Orchestra of Austin, the Bach Society of San Antonio, and the *Aquinas* Ensemble. With Mercury Baroque he has performed as soloist, appeared on television and radio broadcasts, toured in the US and recently in France, performing to sold-out audiences in Paris, and made recordings, such as Vivaldi's *L'estro Armonico*, which received warm reviews in a number of publications including *Strad* magazine. He also enjoys working with dancers and choreographers and has performed in pieces by Natalie Weir, Dominic Walsh, Paula Georgudis, Mario Zambrano, as well as in Jane Wiener's premiere of Village of Waltz, performing Bach's *Chaconne*.

Mr. Martin frequently performs in chamber music concerts and has appeared with a number of groups including the Baylor Piano Trio, with which he has performed and taught in Central America while on faculty at the *Festival Alfredo St Malo*. As leader of the Zephyr Ensemble he has performed in many concerts in America, Panama, and Japan. The ensemble has had the honor of working with contemporary composers such as Kurt Hopstein who allowed them to present the US premiere of his *Forgotten Gardens* for string sextet.

Mr Martin's teachers include Fredell Lack, Bruce Berg, Kenneth Goldsmith, Margaret Pardee, and Josef Gingold. He holds a bachelors degree from Baylor University, and master's degrees from Rice University and the University of St Thomas. He has attended or performed at festivals in New York, Texas, Washington, Vermont, Missouri, England, and Panama. He has also taught at a number of institutions and has been on faculty at Baylor University and the University of St Thomas, where he currently teaches. He also travels to Panama regularly to perform, teach, and do outreach.

In addition to performing classical music in a wide range of settings, Mr Martin pursues his interest in folk violin styles from around the world, in particular those of the Appalachian region of the United States, and of Central America. He has traveled in both places documenting and studying the musical styles of folk violinists as well as documenting the traditional music and dance of the indigenous *Emberá* in the *Darién* jungle.