

C. Vanessa Fanning

C. Vanessa Fanning, a native of Atlanta, GA, is a renowned orchestra instructor, director, composer/arranger, adjudicator, contractor, and cellist. Upon first playing cello in ninth grade, her talent as a cellist was evident immediately. After just one year of playing cello in high school, she made the Georgia High School All-State Orchestra. She played with that orchestra the remainder of her high school years as well as with the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra. Upon graduating from high school, she went on to receive a Bachelors in Music Education from Georgia State University (www.gsu.edu). She has since received a Masters in Music Education from State University of West Georgia (www.westga.edu) and Ed.S from Georgia State University.

While having taught strings in 2 metro Atlanta public school systems for over 20 years, as well as privately and in other group settings, Vanessa realized the importance of having good music for all musicians to play, from beginning to advanced skill levels. She has composed and arranged numerous pieces of instrumental music for soloist and ensembles. Being biased as a cellist, Vanessa quite easily realized the absence of melodies for bass clef instruments in much of music literature. Therefore, much of the music that she writes features viola, cello, and even bass melodies, giving these instruments the melodic opportunities that they so deserve. Many of her selections are included on various state sponsored Music Education Orchestra Festival lists, and have thus been performed at festivals, services, and concerts throughout the United States and abroad.

Some professional organizations that Vanessa has been affiliated with include: Music Educators National Conference (www.menc.org), Georgia Music Educators Association (www.gmea.org), American String Teacher Association (www.astaweb.com) and the American Federation of Musicians. As a cellist, she has, and continues to perform as a soloist, as well as ensemble musician with various groups across the South. They include the Dekalb Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Community Orchestra, African American Philharmonic Orchestra, Strings of Faith, Vibrations, Americolor Opera Alliance, Party on the Moon (www.partyonthemoon.com), CAU Philharmonic, Still Waters Symphonia (www.Sinfo-Nia.com), and Just Friends. Notable persons that she has performed and/or recorded with include James Cleveland, James Bignon, Vanessa Bell-Armstrong, Jean Carne, Lisa "Left Eye" Lopez, Ken Ford, Byron Cage, Karen Clark-Sheard, and Juanita Bynum. Her performances have taken place at many of the finest venues throughout the state of Georgia and the Southeast region of the United States.

Vanessa is married to Kelly Fanning, renowned marching band music arranger. Kelly's music has been played and heard across the nation and abroad. Some of his featured works include arranging "I Told Yall", "Been Away," and "Uh-oh" for the hit movie "Drumline". Because of the request for their outstanding instrumental arrangements and compositions, the Fannings established F Clef Music (fclefmusic.com), a company specializing in custom made selections for any instrumental ensemble.

Kelly and Vanessa have a son, Arthur, who is a budding musician. They are members of Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral (www.woffamily.org) where they are directors of the Cathedral Orchestra.

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