



Yvonne Smith (98 word bio)

Based in Houston, Texas, violist Yvonne Smith appears regularly in the Houston Symphony, Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, Houston Ballet, and Grant Park Orchestra (Chicago). On baroque viola, Ms. Smith performs frequently with Bach Society Houston, La Follia Austin Baroque, Ars Lyrica Houston, Lyra Baroque Orchestra (Minneapolis/St. Paul), and American Bach Soloists (San Francisco, CA). Yvonne founded La Speranza, the period instrument chamber ensemble, in 2016. She earned her Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees in Viola Performance from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University under the tutelage of Joan DerHovsepian and James Dunham.

For more information, please visit www.yvonesmithviola.com.

Yvonne Smith (258 word bio)

At age nine when her family was living in upstate New York, Yvonne Smith chose to learn to play the viola because of its rich, dark sound, its supporting role in ensembles ... and her acute distaste for high notes, which would have been inevitable, had she chosen to play the violin. Her love for the viola grew throughout her childhood years and several cross-country moves, and she eventually grew to tolerate and even embrace high notes.



Yvonne was first introduced to early music as a teenager when she heard and fell in love with a recording of Corelli's violin concerti by Philharmonia Baroque. She began seriously pursuing historical performance shortly after completing viola performance degrees from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University (B.Mus'13, M.Mus' 15). While at Rice, she studied with James Dunham and Joan DerHovsepian.

In addition to performing with and running La Speranza, Yvonne enjoys a full schedule as a performing and teaching artist on both modern and baroque viola. In the 2021-2022 season, she will appear with La Follia Austin Baroque, Lyra Baroque (Minneapolis, MN), American Bach Soloists (San Francisco, CA), Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, and the Gateways Orchestra. She also has a per-service contract with the Houston Symphony through May 2022, coaches chamber music at American Festival for the Arts (AFA) and has a thriving viola studio of private students ranging from age 8 to adult. Yvonne's baroque viola was made by Timothy Johnson in 2017 after Andrea Guarneri, 1676, and her modern viola was made by Vanna So in 2009.

For more information, please visit www.yvonesmithviola.com.

Website and Social Media

www.yvonesmithviola.com

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