

# Go for Baroque

## G4B INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHIES

**Densi Rushing** began playing the violin at age seven in her hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico. She attained degrees in both Music Performance and Music Education, and began a career in the Putnam City Schools, teaching elementary, junior, and senior high orchestra for 14 years, helping to develop one of the most highly rated orchestra programs in the Midwest.

Densi currently performs with the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic* (Assistant Concertmaster), *Lawton Philharmonic* (Concertmaster), *Lyric Theatre OKC Orchestra*, Broadway tour shows, and **Go for Baroque**. She is quite busy as a freelance violinist, private studio instructor and Music Contractor. Her love of bluegrass and Celtic music led to solo performances at the *Oklahoma* and *Grapevine (TX) Oprys*, and membership in a bluegrass band. She has also performed fiddle solos with Kelli O'Hara and Kristin Chenoweth, and is also in many studio and movie soundtrack recordings. Other past credits include *The Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque*, *Tulsa Philharmonic*, and upon occasion Concertmaster of the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*.

Her teachers include James Bonnell, Dr. Leonard Felberg, Ann Strong, Dr. Roger Strong, Eudice Shapiro, Michael Ma, and Felicia Moye. She enjoys camping, hiking, fishing, mountain biking and off-roading with her husband Rick and son Sawyer. Densi also shows and breeds Rhodesian Ridgebacks. Her dogs, which hold both AKC and International Champion titles, compete in conformation, lure coursing, obedience, agility, Canine Good Citizen, therapy dog, and herding.

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**Jim Shelley** has been a cellist with the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic* for over 25 years. He regularly performs with **Go for Baroque**, a chamber music ensemble. On Sundays, his cello music can be heard in Oklahoma City's Crossing Community Church Chapel. He holds a Bachelor of Music Performance and a Masters of Music Education from the University of Central Oklahoma where he was named "Outstanding Student" both as an undergraduate and graduate musician.

His flexibility and versatility, combined with his congenial personality, make Jim a very busy performing musician. Shelley has performed with the *Edmond Quartet*, *Oklahoma Strings*, *Mid-America String Quartet* and *Celestial Strings*. He is happy to be a part of "Music from Greer," a chamber music festival held in Greer, Arizona.

After teaching orchestra for 18 years, Shelley left Alcott Middle School to pursue another artistic passion - fused glass. He now balances his time between creating glass art and performing music. His creations are carried in several galleries and boutiques, and he travels regionally to art festivals with his wife, Melanie. His work can be seen at [www.jasworx.com](http://www.jasworx.com).

Shelley also enjoys singing, song writing, and playing the guitar with the rock bands *Endangered Species* and *Starcruisers*. Jim's hobbies include gardening, cycling and disc golf.

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**Dr. Stephen Goforth** is an Oklahoma musician who has distinguished himself as a trumpet virtuoso comfortable in any venue - principal trumpet, featured soloist, lead trumpet, jazz soloist, church soloist, conductor, clinician, composer, recording artist, brass quintet and more. He is particularly known for brilliant piccolo trumpet playing and spontaneous exhilarating obligatos. He holds degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University, Florida State University, and University of Oklahoma. He has performed for *OKMozart* numerous times and toured with the *Dallas Brass*; played in Europe, with numerous touring artists and for presidents and dignitaries to include Barbara Bush, Henry Kissinger, and Ronald Reagan. His programs stretch from church choral works to full orchestras to the acclaimed "Experience Trumpets" solo concert featuring more than 20 instruments. His most recent recordings and compositions are being played on national television networks including *Fox*, *Disney*, *Nickelodeon*, *Comedy Central*; in Europe, Africa, and most recently Asia and Australia.

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**Peggy Payne** has a flare for communicating and has molded a style of performing that brings audiences into an enjoyment of new musical experiences and the musicians performing. Her warm congenial personality has touched the hearts of audiences across the state as harpsichordist/manager for the **Go for Baroque** ensemble, and across the United States, Mexico and Canada as pianist with the *New American Ragtime Ensemble* under the Herbert Barrett Management in New York. She was Principal Keyboard with the *Oklahoma Symphony* and now holds that position with the *OKC Philharmonic*.

Peggy Payne has been recognized as a leader in developing and implementing pilot education programs for various arts organizations, garnering her a Governor's Arts and Education Award. As Arts Facilitator for Penn Square Mall, she helped create numerous opportunities for not-for-profit arts groups to share partnerships with the Mall, recognized by a Business in the Arts Award. Ms. Payne brings an enthusiasm for embracing new challenges with confidence and patience to her community involvement and her private students.

As a native Oklahoman, Peggy Payne holds a Masters degree in Piano Performance from Oklahoma City University, where she studied with Robert Laughlin. Past credits include *OKC Chamber Players*, *OKC Chamber Orchestra*, *Quartz Mt. Summer Arts Institute*, and soloist with the *Oklahoma Symphony*, *Tulsa Philharmonic*, *Lawton Philharmonic*, *OKC Philharmonic*, and *Ballet Oklahoma*. She is a member of Psi Kappa Lambda and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Although an avid exercise enthusiast, Peggy Payne's favorite pastime is going on roadtrips with her dalmatian *Dreamworks Girl on Fire* "Kindle."

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For more information, visit [goforbaroque.org](http://goforbaroque.org) or call 405-840-0278.