

G4B Go for Baroque

FEATURE STORY: JIM SHELLEY JASWORX

Enthusiasm and a love for music and art are obvious when Jim Shelley is in motion, whether performing on cello or creating kiln fused glass. A former classroom teacher for 18 years turned glass artist since 2010, Jim has enjoyed making both music and visual art the past 5 years and intends to keep going. "Working with my hands has always been satisfying ...it is really gratifying to watch projects come to fruition," he said, reflecting on his decision to commit so much time and energy toward glass fusing.



Growing up in Oklahoma, Jim Shelley began studying the cello at age 10. Under the direction of T. Burns Westman, he learned to love music. Continuing with his formal education under the tutelage of Jane Smith and Dorothy Hays, he received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Central Oklahoma.



Jim has been playing cello in the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic* since 1989. In 1992 he became a member of **Go for Baroque**, performing concerts throughout the state. Shelley has also 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. It is apparent that engaging in chamber music is Shelley's favorite. His flexibility and versatility as a cellist and guitarist are highlighted in the **G4B** ensemble. Because of his talent as a soloist, which he combines so beautifully with a gift for teamwork, Jim is a very special addition to any musical ensemble.

Shelley has developed a growing business called "Jasworx by Jim Shelley" since leaving the teaching field in 2010. His artwork includes glass jewelry, dishes, bowls, various images, pet portraits, ornaments, decorative pieces and more. Interesting color combinations and plays on shape and texture make each piece an original. Jim's wife Melanie is an active partner in the glass business as well as being Associate Dean of the Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management.

Jim has several interests which he balances with his music. Cycling, horticulture, hiking and disc golf are high on the list. Playing guitar and singing in the rock bands *Endangered Species* and *Star Cruisers* are favorite pastimes, but spending time with his wife is his favorite.

Jim looks forward to always having music as an integral part of his life. For more information, visit goforbaroque.org or call 405-840-0278.