

Christian Howes

A Suzuki-trained violinist from Columbus, Ohio, Christian Howes grew up winning classical competitions and went on to pursue jazz, rock, fiddle styles, blues, and world music, distinguishing himself as one of the premier improvising violinists in the world. He was voted first place in the Downbeat Critics Poll (“Rising Star/Violin”), nominated by the Jazz Journalists Association for “Violinist of the Year”, and named by the JazzTimes critics poll as among the top three jazz violinists.

Invited as the keynote clinician and performer to the 2015 American String Teachers Association Conference in Salt Lake City, he also toured Ukraine at the invitation of the U.S. Embassy as a cultural ambassador underscoring U.S. support for a free and democratic Ukraine, presenting a series of workshops and performances.

Christian formalized his educational initiatives via the founding of Creative Strings, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of music education through school visits, an annual summer camp, and online curriculum. Christian typically gives workshops in over 50 school districts annually, offering residencies which combine collaborative performances with interactive clinics, rehearsals, and teacher training.

His online learning site, the [Creative Strings Academy](#), provides curriculum for teachers to offer improvisation, harmony, and eclectic styles in the classroom. His Music Biz Mastermind online courses help working musicians design their careers while growing their impact.

Christian served for three years as an Associate Professor at the Berklee College of Music after founding the Creative Strings Workshop and Festival, now in its 16th year. The annual week-long conference provides teen and adult string players an opportunity to experience a rigorous schedule of public performances, jams, rehearsals, and clinics, all with a focus on improvisational music.

Christian collaborates with string teachers around the world, with the generous sponsorship of Yamaha and D’Addario, to provide workshops and guest performances for K-12 string programs, college, and private studios.

Christian has been invited to present or teach at The New School, Oberlin College, the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, University of New Mexico, University of Southern California, University of Arizona, University of Michigan, Ohio State University, IAJE, ASTA, NAMM, IMEA, OMEA, KASTA, FMEA, ASTA, the Berklee String Fling, Jazz Connections, the Jazz Education Network Conference, and hundreds of high schools, middle schools, and private studios throughout the U.S. He has also taught in Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Canada, Spain, Germany, Holland, Italy, Australia, and China.