

Margaret Krowicki Montalvo – Bio

Margaret Montalvo earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in Violin Performance with an emphasis in Violin Pedagogy. A native of New York City, Mrs. Montalvo began to study the violin at the age of nine. Upon recommendation from her first music teacher Mr. Kott from P.S. 321, she was offered a scholarship to study with Herb Steiner, and then attended New York City's famous High School of Music & Art. During her pre-college years she was the Concertmaster of the High School of Music & Art (also known as the "FAME" school), and Assistant Concertmaster in All-City Orchestra. During this time, she studied privately with Russian Violinist Galina Heifetz and was coached by Enrico DiCecco of the New York Philharmonic. Upon graduating from High School, she attended the Manhattan School of Music on a talent Scholarship and studied with world renowned violin professor and pedagogue, Burton Kaplan. While at MSM she attended master classes with concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic Glenn Dicterow, and internationally renowned soloist Henryk Szering. She then went on to earn her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Hunter College. While earning her master's degree, she studied the traditional methods in Violin Pedagogy of Paul Rolland and Mimi Zweig during her Graduate Assistantship at Florida Atlantic University, where Mrs. Montalvo was also concertmaster of the University Symphony. Simultaneously, she served as Director of Early Elementary Strings and Chamber Music at the Pine Crest School of Boca Raton. After moving to Ft Myers, went on to holding the position of Adjunct Violin Professor at Edison College. A certified music educator and experienced adjudicator with conservatory training, Mrs. Montalvo has been no stranger to the life as a freelance musician, performing with several local orchestras including the Southwest Florida Symphony and the Miami Symphony.

Mrs. Montalvo began working with the School District of Lee County in 2005, at which time she started an Elementary Orchestra at a Title 1 school which was followed in numerous articles by the media. This orchestra hosted a private performance and meeting with the distinguished guest and writer, Rashida Ali. She later joined the staff at Edison Park Creative & Expressive Arts School, as Director of "The Violin Project", where her talented students performed locally throughout the community. The Edison Park Chamber Group was formed by Mrs. Montalvo in 2007 and began a legacy of its own. This select ensemble of highly gifted students was the first elementary string ensemble to ever perform at All-County Orchestra and has also performed for distinguished guests and audiences including, Dr. Ben Carson at the Carson Scholars Banquet, concertmaster of the New York City Ballet Arturo Delmoni, world renowned animal handler Jack Hanna, and for the Inauguration of the Mayor of the City of Fort Myers.

In 2010, Mrs. Montalvo was awarded with "Subject Area Teacher in Music" in Lee County and has been a nominee of the distinguished Golden Apple Teacher award. The Violin Project at Edison Park was honored with a new composition written expressly for the students under her direction titled "Priceless Mandala" by Dr. DeSena, composer and Professor Emeritus of electronic music from the University of Miami. "Priceless Mandala" was premiered in 2010, a multimedia performance which showcased a collaboration of artwork created by the students. Mrs. Montalvo was also appointed Director of the "Youth Sinfonia" for the Southwest Florida Youth Orchestras and served as coordinator for All County Orchestras in Lee County.

In August 2011, Mrs. Montalvo relocated to Suwanee, GA. Working with a subsidiary of Steinway, she successfully implemented a new curriculum for Afterschool Elementary Strings Orchestra students at select Elementary Schools in metro-Atlanta. In 2012, Mrs. Montalvo envisioned beginning her own music school and launched, Crescendo Strings Academy of Music. Mrs. Montalvo currently resides with her husband Jay Krowicki and daughter Kassandra in Dawsonville Georgia. Along with her husband, they purchased the Historic Housley Building and are the proud owners of Kulwin's Ice Cream, Chocolates & Fudge, on the beautiful Historic Square in Dahlonega.