

DANIEL STEPNER (Résumé as of September, 2015)

Present address: 941 Centre Street, Newton Centre MA 02459, USA

Telephone and FAX: (617) 969-3191; Cell: 617-935-9436

Email: stepner@brandeis.edu Website: danielstepner.com

Office at Brandeis University, Music Department, Waltham MA 02254 Telephone (781) 736-3313

Biographical Sketch and Summary of Formal Education

Born in 1946 and raised in Wisconsin; both parents, professional musicians, first teachers. Advanced education at Northwestern University (Bachelor of Music Degree, 1968; principal teacher: **Steven Stryk**), at the Écoles d'Art Américaines in Fontainebleau, France (diploma for two summers' work, 1970, 1971; principal teacher: **Nadia Boulanger**), and at Yale University (Master of Musical Arts, 1972; Doctor of Musical Arts, 1978; principal teacher: **Broadus Erle**). Other teachers and coaches included Antoinette Dieudonné in solfège, violinists Raymond Brown, Rudolph Kolisch, Louis Krasner, Jean Pasquier, Angel Reyes, Jaap Schröder and Joseph Silverstein; Studied composition with Alan Stout and Yehudi Wyner. Conducting studies with Milton Weber and Gustav Meier. Based in the Boston area since 1975.

Primary Professional Activities at Present

Artistic Director, Aston Magna Festival and Foundation, since 1991

Professor Emeritus, Brandeis University (full-time faculty from 1987-2016)

Discography (soloist or chamber musician)

Anderson, Allen: String Quartet (Lydian String Quartet, CRI CD 727)
J. S. Bach: The Complete Works for Violin and Continuo (Boston Museum Trio, LP, Titanic Records)
J. S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerti (with Boston Baroque, Martin Pearlman, Dir.; Telarc 2 CD 80412; (soloist in all six, on violin and viola)
J. S. Bach: A Musical Offering (Music from Aston Magna, Centaur CD 2295)
J. S. Bach: Orchestral Suites (Boston Baroque; soloist in Nos. 2 and 3; Telarc CD 80619)
J. S. Bach: Triple Concerto (2 CD set, Virgin Veritas; Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, under Andrew Parrott)
J. S. Bach: Suites for Dancing (Boston Early Music Soloists, Koch CD # 7037; under William Malloch)
J. S. Bach: Sonatas (Boston Museum Trio, Centaur CD CRC 2198)
J. S. Bach: Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin; Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue (Centaur CD: CRC 3283/4)
J. S. Bach: Four Solo Cantatas (Aston Magna; DS, conductor and violinist, Centaur CD 2690;)
Bartók, Béla: Sonata for Solo Violin (Centaur CD 3315)
Beethoven: The Late Quartets (Lydian String Quartet, Centaur CD 3212-4)
Bouchard, Linda: Lung Ta (Lydian String Quartet; CRI CD 672)
Boykan, Martin: String Quartet No. 4 (Lydian String Quartet, CRI CD)
Boykan, Martin: String Quartet No. 3 (Lydian String Quartet, Troy 1196 CD)
Brahms: Piano Quintet, Op. 34; Viola Quintet, Op. 111 (CD produced by Brandeis University)
Buxtehude: Four Sonatas a Due (Boston Museum Trio, Harmonia Mundi France CD 1901089;)
Buxtehude: Seven Sonatas a Due (Boston Museum Trio, Centaur CD CRC 2391)
Chang, Yu-Hui: Worries Just as Real (with pianist Donald Berman, Centaur CD CRC 3369)
Child, Peter: String Quartet No. 1 (Lydian S.Q., Neuma Records 450-98)
Child, Peter: String Quartet No. 2 (Lydian S.Q., New World Records 80594)
Child, Peter: Variations (solo violin: Albany Records; Troy 1114)
Clerambault, Louis-Nicolas: *Orphée, Médée*, other chamber music (Aston Magna, Centaur CD 3169)
Fairouz, Mohammed: Lamentation and Satire (Lydian S.Q., Dorian Sono Luminus CD DSL92146)
Fauré: La Bonne Chanson (with Sanford Sylvan, David Breitman and the LSQ, Nonesuch CD 79371-2)
Fine, Irving: String Quartet (Lydian S.Q., Nonesuch CD 979175-2)
Fine, Irving: Violin Sonata (with pianist Sally Pinkas, Centaur CD CRC 3369)
Fussell, Charles: Being Music and Specimen Days (Lydian Quartet with Sanford Sylvan, Koch CD)
Gershwin, George (and Porter): Songs for voices with electric violin and gamba; (Centaur CD 2623)
Handel: Concerti Grossi, Op. 3, Op. 6 (Handel and Haydn Society, Avie CD 2065)
Handel: Concerti Grossi, Op. 6 (Boston Baroque, Telarc CD 80688)
Handel: The Triumph of Time and Truth (Aston Magna, D. S., conductor and violinist, Centaur CD 2431/2;)
Harbison, John: Two String Quartets, and "November 19, 1828" (Lydian S.Q., Harmonia Mundi 907057)
Harbison: String Quartet No. 3, "Thanks, Victor," and "The Reawakening" (Lydian S.Q., Musica Omnia CD 0110)
Harbison: The First Four String Quartets (Lydian S.Q., Centaur CD 2985)
Haydn: Trio of horn, violin, cello (Titanic LP)

Continued...

Hindemith, Paul: Sonata for Solo Violin, Op. 31, No. 2 (Centaur 3315)

Hyla, Lee: Second and Third String Quartets (Lydian String Quartet, New World CD 80491,)

Hyla, Lee: Fourth String Quartet (Lydian String Quartet, Tzadik CD, 8027)
Ives: The String Quartets (Centaur CD);
Ives: Five Violin Sonatas (with John Kirkpatrick, piano Musical Heritage Society 2-CD set);
 Karlins, William: Saxophone Quintet (Lydian String Quartet; Northwestern University Records)
 Lydian String Quartet in Moscow: (MCA CD; music of Chaushian, Firsova, T. O. Lee, Peter Child)
 Marin Marais: La Gamme et autres morceaux de symphonie (Boston Museum Trio, Centaur CRC 2129)
Monteverdi, Claudio: Orfeo (Aston Magna, D.S., conductor and violinist, 2 Centaur CD 2931/32)
 Monteverdi, Claudio: Vespers of 1610 (Boston Baroque, soloist in Sonata sopra Sancta Maria; Telarc CD 80453)
 Mozart: Clarinet Quintet, Movement for Clarinet Quintet, Two Flute Quartets (Aston Magna, Centaur CD 2561)
 Nieske, Robert: Jazz Compositions (Lydian String Quartet with Wolf Soup, Accurate 5042)
 Ornstein, Leo: Piano Quintet, String Quartet No. 3 (Lydian String Qt., Janice Weber, New World Records CD 80509,)
 Perkinson, Coleridge-Taylor: Blues/Forms (Centaur CRC 3315)
 Persichetti, Vincent : Four String Quartets (Lydian S.Q., Centaur CD CRC 2833)
 Porter, Cole (see Gershwin above)
 Rakowsky, David: *Pied-à-terre*, with Sally Pinkas (Centaur CD CRC 3369)
 Rameau: Pieces de Clavecin en Concerts and cantatas *Orphée* and *L'Impatience* Boston Museum Trio, Frank Kelley, Centaur CD CRC 2979)
 Ruggles, Carl: *Mood: Prelude to an Imaginary Tragedy* (with pianist Donald Berman, New World CD80629-9)
 Schubert: Octet in F (Music from Aston Magna Harmonia Mundi France CD HCX 3957049)
 Schubert : "Death and the Maiden" Quartet and Quartet in B Flat (Lydian String Quartet, Centaur CD CRC 2186)
 Schuman, William: Three String Quartets (Lydian String Quartet, Harmonia Mundi France CD 907114)
 Shapero, Harold: Serenade, String Quartet, String Trio; (Lydian S.Q., New World Records 80569-2)
 Shapero, Harold: Violin Sonata (with pianist Sally Pinkas; Centaur CD CRC 3369)
 Telemann: Four Methodical Sonatas (Boston Museum Trio Seon CD)
 Telemann: Quadri (Boston Museum Trio with Christopher Krueger, flute; Centaur CD CRC 2260)
 Viotti, Giovanni Battista: Duet for Two Violins, Op.6 , No. 1 (with Robert Nairn, contrabass) Centaur CRC 3233)
 Vivaldi: Four "Pisendl Sonatas" (Boston Museum Trio Harmonia Mundi; France CD 1901088)
 Wyner, Yehudi: String Quartet, and iolin/piano works with the composer, New World Records CD 80549-2,
 Wyner, Yehudi: Second Madrigal, Bridge CD 9134
Wyner, Yehudi: Concert Duo (with the composer at the piano, Centaur CD CRC 3369)
 Wyner, Yehudi: Music from "The Mirror," and "Tants un Maysle" Naxos CD 8.559423, Grammy nomination.
Ysaÿe, Eugène: Ten Preludes for Violin Alone, Centaur CD 3315

Soon to be released:

Complete Sonatas for Violin and Harpsichord, with Peter Sykes (Centaur)
 Read, Gardner: Piano Quintet (Lydian S.Q. with John McDonald)

Concertos Performed in Concert with Orchestra

J. C. Bach (Sinfonia Concertante in A, violin and cello), **J. S. Bach** (Concerti in A Minor, E Major, D minor [reconstruction by D.S. of the keyboard concerto , BWV 1052], D Major (after BWV 1053); Double Concerto in D Minor, Double Concerto for violin and oboe (both versions), Triple Concerto in D Major, soli in all six Brandenburg Concerti), **Bartók** (*Portrait* -- original version of the first movement of the 1908 Concerto), **Benda** (Sinfonia No. 6), **Berg**, **Brahms** (cadenza by D.S.), **Chausson** (*Poème*), **Fauré** (first Boston area performance), **Haydn** (C Major, F Major for violin and keyboard, Symphonia Concertante), **Mozart** (K. 216 in G, K. 219 in A, K. 271a in D, Rondo, K. 373; all with cadenzas by D.S. -- and Simphonia Concertante, K. 364, Concerto for Piano and Violin [completion by Robert Levin]), **Pergolesi**, **Prokofief** (No. 2 in G Minor), **Schumann**, **Stravinsky**, **Tartini** (E Minor, D. 56, and C Major D.12), **Vivaldi** (The Four Seasons, three other solo concerti, and six double concerti, two quadruple concerti, concerto for violin and two cellos, two concerti for violin and organ), **Weill** (Violin Concerto and *Der Neue Orpheus* [American Premiere]), **Vaughn Williams** (*The Lark Ascending*).

Chamber Groups

The Lydian String Quartet, in residence at Brandeis University (1987-2016)
The Boston Museum Trio, in residence at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, 1976-2012
The Boston Musica Viva (1 year, 1 European tour);
The Monadnock Music Festival (9 summers).

Past Concertmasterships

Handel and Haydn Society, (1986-2010) under Thomas Dunn, Christopher Hogwood and Grant Llewellyn;
The Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century (6 years as assistant concertmaster and frequent soloist, under Frans Brüggen, 1981-1987);
Boston Baroque (formerly Banchetto Musicale, 18 years, under Martin Pearlman, 1973-1991);
Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra (four biennial festivals);
The Boston Philharmonic (3 years, under Benjamin Zander, 1975-7, 1978-9);
The New Haven Symphony (4 and a half years, under Frank Brief and Erich Kunzel, 1970-1975);

Also, concertmasterships of various freelance orchestras in Boston, New York and New Haven, including the Boston Lyric Opera, The Mozartean Players, Aston Magna, the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, Concert Royal, Cantata Singers, Harvard Radcliffe Collegium, Spectrum Singers, Mostly Mozart Festival, and Musica Sacra. Important concertmaster solos have included, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* and *l'Histoire du Soldat*, Mozart's *Haffner Serenade*, Benda's *Symphonia No. 6*, Strauss's *Bourgeois Gentleman* and *Metamorphosen*, and Schoenberg's *Kammersymphonie*, Op. 9., Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, Charles Fussell's *Specimen Days*.

Aston Magna

Since 1973, I have been involved with the Aston Magna Festival and Foundation, at first peripherally as a student, later as performer and concertmaster, and more recently (since 1991) as Artistic Director. Chamber music -- both vocal and instrumental -- and chamber opera of the 17th and 18th centuries are the Festival's mainstays. Aston Magna began under Albert Fuller as a summer music series for early music on period instruments, and has grown in its repertoire to include music from 1589 through 1850). The Aston Magna Academy (a biennial, multi-disciplinary gathering of scholars, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities) grew out of the Festival and has a vigorous life of its own. I have been an artist-faculty member at four academies (focusing on Bach, Schubert, the Italian Renaissance, Spain and Latin America, and the London of Handel and Hogarth). Musicologist Raymond Erickson (now Dean of Arts and Humanities, Queens College), is Academy Director. As Artistic Director of the Festival, my duties include the putting on of concerts at the Academy as well. The Festival now has an independent 6-week season each summer at Bard College and at Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington, MA, with occasional additional concerts in New York and Boston. More information at <astonmagna.org>.

Theater Work

I have been musical director of repertory productions of "A Soldier's Tale" (Longwharf Theater, New Haven, CT, 1973) and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (American Repertory Theater, Cambridge, MA, 1979); I wrote and directed "Peter and Wolfgang", a children's play with music (MFA, 1996). I was quartet leader for Theatre de la Jeune Lune's *Don Juan Giovanni* and *Figaro* (produced at the American Repertory Theater, Cambridge, MA, 2007).

Conducting Experience

I have conducted orchestras in since high school and have conducted professionally. I organized my own summer orchestra at the age of 19, and conducted Bach Cantatas in college. Professionally I have conducted pit orchestras in the theater, the Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra in four separate programs in Boston's Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall, the Canadian Broadcasting Company Orchestra of Vancouver, the Boston Early Music Festival at the Pepsico Festival at SUNY, Purchase, and Music from Aston Magna, with whom I have recorded Monteverdi, Handel and Bach as both player and conductor (see discography above)..

Recitals

I have given over a hundred violin/keyboards recitals, programming music from 1610 to the present, featuring both standard repertoire and lesser-known works, including first performances of works by Leo Ornstein, Charles Ives and Carl Ruggles. With pianist John Kirkpatrick, I performed and recorded the five sonatas of Charles Ives; with harpsichordist and fortepianist John Gibbons, I have performed 35 of Mozart's sonatas and all the violin/keyboards works of J.S.Bach. With Robert Levin, I have performed a number of recitals, including the three sonatas each of Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms, music of Bach, Beethoven, Debussy, Chausson and Mozart. With Yehudi Wyner, I have often performed his three works for violin and piano. I have performed a number of recitals unaccompanied, on which I have programmed all of J.S.Bach's solo works, as well as music by Paganini, Biber, Locatelli, Westhoff, Geminiani, Matteis, Gaviniés, Khandoshkin, Hindemith and Bartók, as well as solo works I have commissioned by John Heiss, Alan Anderson, Daniel Pinkham, Thomas Oboe Lee, Martin Boykan and Robert Nieske. A solo work by Peter Child was commissioned for me by Peter Gombosi. In Jan, 2008 I premiered "Pied-a terre" by David Rakowski.

Teaching Experience

Private teaching: Brandeis University (1987-present) and privately at home. In 2007 I started a weeklong summer workshop at Brandeis focusing on the unaccompanied violin works of J.S.Bach. The workshop has been offered every summer since then. The 9th workshop will be offered this summer. Other past private teaching stints include the Eastman School of Music (Visiting Associate Professor, 1986-7), The Longy School (private teacher, 1975-86 and two appearances giving master classes since 1986), The New England Conservatory (baroque violin, 1980-85), at Boston University (2003-5).

Chamber music coaching: From 1993-2013 I was a Preceptor in Music at Harvard University, team-teaching with Robert Levin a chamber music course (Music 180: Chamber Music in Performance and Analysis). While a graduate student at Yale, I taught a chamber music seminar for undergraduates (1974). In the 1980's, I taught in workshops in baroque violin in Vancouver, Canada; Cordes, France; and Pamparato, Italy. Since 1987, I have been on the full-time faculty of Brandeis University's Music Department. Besides performing regularly with the Lydian String Quartet, I have coached student groups in chamber music and coach composers on string writing. During the summers 1988-1995 the Lydian Quartet administered and coached a 3-week intensive workshop in chamber music performance, which drew students from all over the country.

Transcriptions

1. Concerto in D Minor, BWV 1052, by J. S. Bach, reconstructed as a concerto grosso;
2. Concerto in D Major after BWV 1053, by J. S. Bach, for violin, strings and continuo
3. Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue, BWV 903, by J. S. Bach (transcribed in G Minor for solo violin)
4. *Kunst der Fuge* (Art of the Fugue), by J.S. Bach. An arrangement for baroque instruments: violin, viola, cello, viola da gamba, baroque flute, baroque oboe doubling oboe da caccia, baroque bassoon, harpsichord (performed at the Aston Magna Festival and the Museum of Fine Arts)
5. *Gioco delle Coppie* by Bela Bartók (from the Concerto for Orchestra, Arr. violin and piano);
6. Waltzes, Op. 39, by Brahms, set for violin and piano.
7. *Death and the Maiden*, the song by Schubert, arranged for voice and string quartet

Dozens of arranged accompaniments, for violin and viola da gamba, of songs by Gershwin, Porter, Kern, Rodgers, Ellington, etc.; for annual performances at the Museum of Fine Arts annual Valentine's Day concert, and annual performances at Upstairs at the Square.

Original Compositions

1. *Who's Contracting This Gigue, Anyway?* (an étude for violin);
2. *Blue Tombeau* (for viola da gamba);
3. Cadenzas for concertos by Mozart, Haydn, Benda, Beethoven, and Brahms
4. *In Memoriam*, Steven Jay Gould (for solo violin)
5. *The had Brahms written his rag Rag* (violin and piano)
6. *Tangito: Upstairs at Café Tortoni* (for solo violin)
7. *Ghetto Fughatto* (fugue for solo violin)

Writings

1. *Towards the Mutual Independence of Any Two Aspects of Violin Playing* (Master's Thesis, 1972, unpublished).
2. *An Integrated, Transposable Scale System for Violinists* (1980, unpublished)
3. *One Man's Passion...* (reflections on playing Bach's Passions, 1985; commentary for performances at the Boston Early Music Festival, and in the Handel and Haydn Society program book)
4. *String Spelling for Composers:*
Guidelines for composers on chromatic spelling for stringed instruments, (unpubl.)
5. Program notes for my own recitals and chamber concerts (available upon request;
6. CD Liner notes for two Brahms Quintets, Leo Ornstein's Piano Quintet and Quartet No. 3, Late Beethoven Quartets, Buxtehude's *Sonata a Due*, Op. 1, Handel's *The Triumph of Time and Truth*
7. A journal of a Soviet Union tour
(Lydian String Quartet, 1989, published in the Brandeis Quarterly)
8. *Peter and Wolfgang*, 1996, a play for children with music.
(performed at the Museum of Fine Arts)
9. Interview with D.S. in *Fanfare*, May-June 2014, Volume 37, No. 5, page 171

Other

Member of violin jury, International Bach Competition, Leipzig, Germany, June-July 2002;
Judge for various competitions in the Boston area: at NEC,
the Roman Totenberg Young Musicians, The Boston Classical Orchestra;
Two distinguished teaching awards, Harvard University, 2006, 2008.

Current Special Projects

- 1) Creating a video on scale-playing, based on my "*An Integrated, Transposable Scale System for Violinists and violists*" (to be filmed in December, 2015)
- 2) Organizing a festival devoted to the music of Gabriel Fauré (March 12 and 13, 2016)

Live performances on Youtube

Beethoven String Quartet in B Flat, Op. 130, first movement:
Lydian String Quartet; performance and commentary:
<<http://www.lydianquartet.com/video-insights/>>

Eric Chasalow: *Scuffle and Snap*;, for violin and electronic sounds;
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAh4fzhgPLo>>

Mozart Violin Comes to Boston
<<http://www.npr.org/event/music/191709140/mozarts-violin-comes-to-boston-live-in-concert>>

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 (Orchestra of the 18th Century, under Frans Brüggen, DS, violin soloist):
<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zcPOgS8DBk>>