

Calida Nicole Jones is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she received her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Music Performance, Violin Emphasis. Ms. Jones received her Master of Music in Performance with a Suzuki Violin Pedagogy Emphasis at the Hartt School in West Hartford, CT under the tutelage of Anthea Kreston and Teri Einfeldt.

While at The Hartt School, Calida was a recipient of The Guild of Arts Scholarship. Ms. Jones' violin instructors include Dr. Hovayda Samandari, Stanley Chepaitis, Ellen Chen, Teri Einfeldt, and Anthea Kreston to name but a few. Ms. Jones' studies afforded her to travel domestically and in Europe and Canada where she performed with various ensembles. She has participated in master-classes and festivals with members of the Amelia Piano Trio, Biava String Quartet, Miami String Quartet, and a host of others.

Prior to Ms. Jones joining the Hartt School Community Division on a full-time basis, she was the violin teacher at the Richard J. Kinsella School of Performing Arts in Hartford, CT. Ms. Jones is currently the Director of the Blue Hills Suzuki Program, an inner-city Suzuki Violin program in Hartford CT. In addition to teaching private lessons and group classes through The Hartt School Community Division, Ms. Jones also teaches violin at two magnet schools in West Hartford, CT., and maintains a home studio. She has performed with the Hartford, Waterbury, Johnstown, and Allegheny Symphonies, and many other chamber groups. Performances with Olivia Newton-John, Smokey Robinson, and Shodekeh are among her most memorable.

Ms. Jones is an active member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas, and the Secretary of the Southern New England Suzuki Association. This year, Ms. Jones with two other colleagues created a video presentation called "Parent Power" which discusses ways parents can be supportive of their child in the Suzuki Violin journey. This video is part of an online series sponsored by the Suzuki Association of the Americas called "Parents as Partners."

Ms. Jones strongly believes all children should have equal access to a quality music education. Her personal mission is to ensure that children who have limited resources also have access to musical resources and activities. She feels that this type of musical exposure and education will benefit them in terms of building confidence that will catapult them to successful careers, regardless of the career path.