

Go for Baroque

FEATURE STORY: JIM SHELLEY

CELLIST GIVES THE GIFT OF TEACHING

Enthusiasm and a love for music are obvious when Jim Shelley is in motion, whether teaching or performing. A classroom teacher since 1992, Jim is currently teaching orchestra in Norman Public Schools. “Working with young people is great because the energy level is so high...it is really gratifying to watch them develop as young musicians,” he said, reflecting on his decision to commit so much time and energy toward teaching.



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, 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 each July. It is apparent that engaging in chamber music is Shelley's favorite. His flexibility and versatility, combined with his congenial personality, makes Jim a very busy performing musician. 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.

Jim has several interests which he balances with his music. Sports, horticulture, hiking and traveling are on the top of the list. Jim is a newlywed and enjoys spending time with his wife Melanie. Being a teacher offers him the opportunity to travel during the summer months...trips to the mountains for hiking, camping and mountain climbing are some of his favorite pastimes. “Each time I go, I can't wait to get to the top of the mountain,” he said.

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.