

Dr. Tom Silliman, Jr.

The 2010-2011 school year will be my eighteenth year of teaching strings and orchestra in Brevard County. Prior to coming here, I taught strings and music history for three years at Southern Utah University.

I received my Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance from James Madison University, and my Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Cello Performance from Arizona State University.

I grew up in Frederick, Maryland and started playing the cello at the age of nine, participating in my school orchestra program beginning in the fourth grade. My father was one of the finest musicians in Frederick and then moved to the Orlando area where he retired in 2005 after teaching band at South Seminole Middle School for twelve years and teaching music a total of forty-five years in the states of Maryland and Florida! My father and I perform in many musical organizations throughout the Central Florida Area.

Besides being your teacher, I am most proud of my membership in the Brevard Symphony Orchestra. In February of 2004 I had the thrill of a lifetime--playing in an orchestra that accompanied the renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman. Then in 2006, I was fortunate to play for the BSO when they accompanied Joshua Bell in a superlative performance that I'll remember for the rest of my life. I play in my church orchestra at First Baptist Church in Melbourne and teach private lessons at the Gateway Academy of the Arts.

I met my wife Becky when I moved to Florida and we were married on July 23, 1994. We have three children--Jeremy (a violinist & pianist), age 11; Shannon (a dancer and violinist), age 8; and Justin (who just started playing violin), age 6. Becky plays flute in the Melbourne Municipal Band and the contrabass flute in the Space Coast Flute Orchestra. Becky and I have formed our own chamber music group called "Highwire Music." Our favorite leisure activities are scuba diving and visiting amusement parks.