

## About the Teacher

Mark Pfannschmidt began his musical study with violin at age seven, piano at 10, and viola at 13. He has also studied voice, harp and harpsichord. In the end, he chose to focus on the viola, because of its rich tone and unusual repertoire (and the employment prospects were much better).

In 1977, he received his high school diploma from the [Interlochen Arts Academy](#). He returned to IAA for an additional year of intensive study before attending the [Peabody Conservatory](#), where he graduated in 1982 with a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance. He earned his Master of Music degree from [The Catholic University of America](#) in 1986. His principal teachers were [David Holland](#), [Karen Tuttle](#) and [Jody Gatwood](#). He has taken teaching courses from [Ronda Cole](#) and [Rebecca Henry](#), with ongoing education at conferences and workshops.

Since 1986, Mr. Pfannschmidt has taught students ages four to adult. His viola and violin students have won auditions in many of the youth orchestras in Montgomery County, Maryland and also the Maryland All-State Orchestras. Since 2001, he has been on the faculty of the National Philharmonic Summer String Institutes, teaching violin and viola. From 1998 to 2002 he taught violin, viola, piano and piano classes at The Academy of Music (now [The Academy of Fine Arts](#)) in Gaithersburg.

Having first joined the [National Philharmonic](#) in 1986, he is currently a tenured violist. He is also the former principal violist of the Gettysburg (Pennsylvania) Chamber Orchestra. From 1991 to 1998, he was a violist in the [US Marine Chamber Orchestra](#) and regularly played for White House functions.

He and his wife, Laura, have two children: Jason and Emily.