

Western New York violinist and music educator Steven Thomas returns to MostArts Festival

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Steven Thomas

ALFRED, NY (July 1, 2019) – Violinist Steven Thomas, a founding member of the MostArts Festival Orchestra, returns to Alfred University this week to conduct the Festival’s Young Pianists Competition, and continue his role as orchestra and chamber music violinist.

Thomas brings years of experience as a musician and teacher to his role in the Young Pianists Competition. He has taught at Houghton College, The University at Buffalo, Amherst Central School, and Williamsville Central School, teaching stringed instruments, supervising student teachers, conducting orchestras and serving in administrative positions. His work with the Amherst Symphony Orchestra has spanned 17 seasons, and he continues to appear with that orchestra as a guest conductor and adjudicator.

Along with his wife, violinist Martha Thomas, he also runs Thomasschule Inc., based in Fillmore, NY, which offers private string instruction, violin, choir, and piano accompaniment. He also freelances on violin and viola as Concertmaster of Broadway productions at Shea’s Performing Art Center, in Buffalo, and with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. A pianist in addition to master of stringed instruments, he also continues to work closely with both student and professional soloists.

Thomas is a long-time resident of western New York and has enjoyed his association with the MostArts Festival and

the young musicians who participate in the annual piano competition. “I look forward to the fellowship with professional musicians who come from all over the country to share this wonderful opportunity to make music,” he says. “It’s a joy and a privilege to meet, rehearse and perform with these young artists, certainly among the top young pianists in the world, as evidenced by their extraordinary skill and artistry.”

Thomas is also an avid outdoorsman: a hiker, biker, canoeist, cross country skier, fly fisherman and private pilot. He hangars his Savannah light sport airplane at the Wellsville Municipal Airport.