

**West Valley Symphony**  
**Get to Know the WVS Musicians**  
**Bonnie Teplik, Violin**



**Tell us a little about yourself:**



I'm an Arizona native, born and raised in Mesa! I started the violin when I was 5 after seeing someone play on Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. My mom didn't think it would last long, but she also knew the importance of private lessons, so I started with Cathy Worcester.

The audience may remember Cathy, she was WVS Concertmaster for many years and retired in 2017. Here is a photo of us at a recent gig.

I graduated from ASU with a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance.



**How do you like to spend your free time?** Reading, gardening, writing, crocheting, building puzzles...And running! I've run over 10 half marathons and one marathon, and I usually do a handful of night trail races over the summer. Here's a photo after finishing a night race. I wiped out early in the race, but I finished. And I have a cool scar.

**Star Trek, or Star Wars?**

Lord of the Rings! :D

**What's your claim to fame?**

I once helped the police chase down a drunk driver. :D

**What is your dream job?**

The one I have! I'm a full-time musician. I teach around 30 students a week, take gigs on the side, and play in this Symphony. It's a beautiful blend. I love learning from and laughing with my students and helping them break things down so they feel confident and competent when they play.

**What skill would you like to master?**

Hm. Master? I'd like to master how to back wind a cable, that's a simple enough skill. But I don't think you can ever actually *master* any complex skill! So, I'll always be working toward more excellence on the violin. That's enough for one lifetime. :) And also, I'd love to be decently proficient at woodworking, fixing things around the house, and car repair.

**What do you like to learn about?**

SO many things! I recently checked out 6 books on bees from the library, because I see them in my garden but know so little! I'm also on a geography kick at the moment, and I plan to finish that anatomy book that's been on my coffee table awhile this year-!

**Have you read any intriguing books lately?**

What was intriguing? Ha, the past few years I've been reading 50-75 books a year, so I'm *always* reading something! Top favorites from last year include "Fascia: What it is and Why it Matters", "The Finishers: The Barkley Marathons", and "The Science of Supercars". Fascia was something I knew nothing about, and the author was both enthusiastic and good at explaining things for normal people without dumbing down the science. The Barkley Marathon is a secret famous race that's been called the hardest in the world, and it was cool to read about the crazy people who have actually finished it. The supercar book was more of a history of the car generally, then turning to the development and design of supercars. Cool stuff!

**What is your favorite food?**

Does coffee count? Also DARK chocolate. 85%+

**What is something you want to learn?**

Classical Indian violin. Such a completely different style of playing!

**What is one thing you tried that you'll never do again?**

Hike a certain cinder cone near Flagstaff (the name is vulgar, so I won't put it here, but it earned the title Worst Hike Ever).

**Do you prefer a beach or mountain vacation?**

Mountains, please! My family went camping a lot when I was a kid, so I've been to almost every national park this side of the Rockies (all the way to Banff!), and I still do a lot of hiking.

Here are some photos I've taken on some of my hikes:



An Everyday Hike

From the top of Humphreys Peak near Flagstaff



At Zion National Park

