

JOAN DERHOVSEPIAN | viola

Joan DerHovsepian is the newly appointed Principal Viola of the Houston Symphony after winning the national audition in May 2023. She served as Associate Principal Viola since 2010. Solo appearances with the Houston Symphony in 2022 include Mozart Sinfonia Concertante led by Jane Glover and Bruch Double Concerto under the baton of music director Andrés Orozco-Estrada.

Recent chamber series and summer festival invitations include the Seattle Chamber Music Society, the Mainly Mozart Festival, the Grand Teton Music Festival, the Mimir Chamber Music Festival, the Lake Lure Chamber Music Festival, the Peninsula Music Festival, Music in Context, the St. Cecelia Chamber Music Society and the National Orchestral Institute and Festival as a faculty member.

A dedicated teacher, Joan is an Artist Teacher of Viola at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, mentoring students through viola orchestral repertoire classes and independent study. She is a regular guest faculty with the New World Symphony and has given masterclasses for music schools such as the University of Melbourne, New England Conservatory and for viola students of the Juilliard School.

Joan was violist of the Everest Quartet, top prize winners at the Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. She served two seasons as Principal Viola of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and played with the Rochester Philharmonic for two seasons. She was awarded 2nd prize in the Primrose International Viola Competition. Her primary teachers include James Dunham and Kim Kashkashian.