

ERIC GRATZ
BIOGRAPHY (LONG & SHORT)
2025-2026 SEASON

(UPDATED 9/2/25. PLEASE DESTROY ALL PREVIOUS MATERIALS.
ANY ALTERATIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ARTIST)

LONG BIOGRAPHY (594 words)

Since his concerto debuts at the age of 14 in the United States, Spain, and Portugal, American violinist **Eric Gratz** has been celebrated as a thrilling performer, combining an old world style with a modern musical intellect. Equally active as soloist, concertmaster, chamber musician, conductor, artistic director, and educator, he maintains a uniquely varied schedule that has taken him to four continents, performing in the world's great concert halls with leading musicians of our time.

In 2013, at the age of 22, Gratz became the youngest Concertmaster in North America, accepting the post with the San Antonio Symphony. During his nine seasons with the orchestra, he took part in numerous world premieres, play-conducted the orchestra from the Concertmaster chair, and frequently appeared as soloist in a far-reaching repertoire ranging from Bach to Kurt Weill. Additional past and present solo appearances include The Cleveland Orchestra, The Phoenix Symphony, Euclid Symphony, Kings Symphony, CityMusic Cleveland, Lexington Bach Festival Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, McCall Mountain Symphony, Mid-Texas Symphony, and the Waterbury Symphony, with conductors Giancarlo Guerrero, David Danzmayr, Sebastian Lang-Lessing, Akiko Fujimoto, Noam Aviel, Tito Muñoz, and Jeannette Sorrell. In demand as a Guest Concertmaster, he has appeared with the Phoenix Symphony, Tucson Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, and the Santa Fe Opera. He served as Artist-in-Residence for the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle during the 2024-25 season.

Since 2024, Gratz has served as Director of the American Chamber Music Society in Chicago. A devoted interpreter of chamber music and recital repertoire, he appears at major festivals and concert halls around the world, including Mainly Mozart Festival, Maui Classical Music Festival, Castleton Festival, Austin Chamber Music, Dame Myra Hess Recital Series, Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts, Severance Hall, Auditorio Manuel De Falla, and the Kennedy Center. A former Artistic Director of the Olmos Ensemble, he frequently performs as a core member of the San Antonio-based group. Among Gratz's many collaborators, some have stood out as particularly memorable, including violinist Vadim Gluzman; cellist Julian Schwarz; pianists Anton Nel, Orion Weiss, Jeffrey Kahane, John Novacek, and Jon Kimura Parker; harpsichordists Jeannette Sorrell and Ian Pritchard; and members of the Vertavo, Pacifica, Mendelssohn, Formosa, and Fine Arts String Quartets.

As a recording artist, Gratz has appeared on several albums. His debut album of virtuoso works for violin and piano (*Eric Gratz*, with pianist Eliot Goldmund) charted on Billboard Classical as the top independent release in the United States for its first week. He has subsequently recorded two other albums with the Olmos Ensemble, *Olmos Live* and *Made In France*, performing works by Harbison, Prokofiev, and Ravel.

Gratz believes it is of the utmost importance to inspire the next generation of musicians and currently serves on the faculty at the New Music School and North Central College. For three years he served as an Apollo's Fire Senior Teaching Artist-in-Residence at Southland College Prep, helping to build a string program in South Chicago. He has given masterclasses at various institutions in the U.S., as well as in Ecuador, Italy, and China. In the summer he serves as Valade Concertmaster Faculty at Interlochen Arts

Camp. A proponent of utilizing new technology to help democratize education, he has recorded several hours of video courses for Tonebase Violin, focusing on the music of Kreisler, Beethoven, and Ysaÿe.

A prizewinner of national and international competitions, Eric Gratz holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, and his former teachers include Cho-Liang Lin, William Preucil, Linda Cerone, Claudia Shih, and Cynthia Stuart. For more information, please visit ericgratz.com.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY (303 words)

Violinist **Eric Gratz** enjoys a remarkably versatile career as soloist, concertmaster, chamber musician, conductor, artistic director, and educator. He served as Concertmaster of the San Antonio Symphony for nine seasons, where he frequently appeared as soloist in repertoire from Bach to Weill, took part in numerous world premieres, and play-conducted the orchestra from the Concertmaster chair. Additional past and present solo appearances include The Cleveland Orchestra, The Phoenix Symphony, Euclid Symphony, Kings Symphony, CityMusic Cleveland, Lexington Bach Festival Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, McCall Mountain Symphony, Mid-Texas Symphony, and the Waterbury Symphony. As a guest Concertmaster, his appearances include the Phoenix Symphony, Tucson Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, and the Santa Fe Opera. He served as Artist-in-Residence for the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle during the 2024-25 season.

Since 2024, Gratz has served as Director of the American Chamber Music Society in Chicago, and regularly appears at major festivals and concert halls around the world, including Mainly Mozart Festival, Maui Classical Music Festival, Castleton Festival, Dame Myra Hess Recital Series, Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts, Severance Hall, Auditorio Manuel De Falla, and the Kennedy Center. A former Artistic Director of the Olmos Ensemble, he frequently performs as a core member of the San Antonio-based group. He has collaborated with Vadim Gluzman, Anton Nel, Orion Weiss, Jeffrey Kahane, Jeannette Sorrell, and members of the Pacifica, Vertavo, Mendelssohn, Formosa, and Fine Arts Quartets.

A passionate educator, Gratz has given masterclasses at various institutions in the U.S., as well as in Ecuador, Italy, and China. He is on faculty at the New Music School, North Central College, and the summer faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp as a Valade Concertmaster. A familiar face on digital platforms, he has recorded several Tonebase Violin courses on music by Beethoven, Kreisler, and Ysaÿe. For more information, please visit ericgratz.com.