

## Suzuki Camp Faculty

**Dr. Melissa Melendez** holds a Bachelor in Music from Louisiana State University, a Master in Music from The Cleveland Institute of Music, an Artist Diploma from Duquesne University and a Doctoral in Musical Arts from the University of Arizona. She has completed her observation hours and teaching workshops for Book 1 and 2 with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. Dr. Melendez is a founder member of the Islander String Quartet, principal violist of the Victoria Symphony, principal violist of the Kingsville Symphony and member of the Corpus Christi Symphony viola section. Dr. Melendez was selected to participate, among other 140 applicants, in the 2008 Suzuki of the Americas conference in Minneapolis, and had the opportunity to talk and show a power point presentation about the Early Childhood Development Center Suzuki Program where she is the Director.

**Russell Alaniz** teaches music at Corpus Christi Montessori School. He started their after-school group violin program (the CCMS Fiddlers) and their after-school private lessons program (on violin and piano). Mr. Russell studied with Andre Grabiec at the University of Houston Moores School of Music. He graduated from the College of Charleston with his Bachelor of Arts in Violin Performance where he studied with the renowned soloist, Lee Chin-Siow.

**Robyn Brown**, a native Californian, began studying cello in the Modesto Suzuki Association when she was eight years old under the tutelage of Ira Lehn. She graduated from the program when she was fourteen years old and has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the Suzuki method. Mrs. Brown has played in various orchestras and has been teaching cello for sixteen years. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Performance from Brigham Young University. She and her husband, Darrell Brown, live in Corpus Christi and have three daughters.

**Nan Borden**, Soprano, is a music educator with 33 years of experience. She has taught music with Flour Bluff ISD, St. James Episcopal School, The Montessori School of Corpus Christi, and Blanch Moore Early Childhood Development Center on the campus of A&M CC. She is currently and is running an early childhood music program called Musikgarten [www.musikgarten.org](http://www.musikgarten.org) for the Coastal Bend School for the Arts. Ms. Borden has been a member of the Corpus Christi Chorale for over 25 years where she served on the Board and was President for two terms. Nan is on the Coastal Bend Regional Parks Foundation Board [www.txregionalpark.org](http://www.txregionalpark.org), a founding board member for the Sparkling City Light opera and also Vice President of the Corpus Christi International Competition [www.ccicps.org](http://www.ccicps.org).

**Dr. Jose Flores** holds his Bachelor and Master degrees in violin performance from the Aaron Copland School of Music at the City University of New York where he studied with Margaret Pardee and Daniel Phillips. He obtained his Doctorate in Musical Arts degree from the University of Arizona where he was teaching assistant of Professor Mark Rush, student of former Concertmaster of the Tucson Symphony Steven Mockel (now Concertmaster of the Phoenix Symphony) and conducting with Dr. Thomas Cockrell. In

the fall of 2006, Dr. Flores was appointed Assistant professor of Violin at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where he is founding member of the Islander String Quartet. He is a member of the Corpus Christi Symphony, principal second violin of the Victoria Symphony, and the conductor of the Corpus Christi Area Youth Orchestra. Dr. Flores is also the director of the Lichtenstein String Quartet which is the only undergraduate string quartet in residence in any college in South Texas.

**Kathleen Kono** has been the Ray and Hamlin Orchestra Director since Fall of 2006. In her three years at Ray and Hamlin, Mrs. Kono has helped double the enrollment in the orchestra programs at both schools and raise the acceptance numbers into the T.M.E.A. All-Region Orchestra. In 2009, both Ray and Hamlin won the Super Sweepstakes Trophy at the UIL Competition, the highest honor possible for this event. Mrs. Kono grew up in Atlanta Georgia and attended Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music where she received her Bachelor of Music degree. Mrs. Kono then attended The University of Texas at Austin and graduated with a Masters of Music degree in Violin Performance and Pedagogy. She has been the Director of Orchestras at Deerpark Middle School in Round Rock, Texas and was the Coordinator and Teacher for The University of Texas at Austin Suzuki-Based String Project. Besides teaching orchestra, Mrs. Kono currently serves at the Principal 2nd Violinist of the Kingsville Symphony Orchestra and serves on their Board of Directors. She also is the 2nd violinist of the Texas A&M Corpus Christi Islander String Quartet.

### **Joyce Wilcox**

**Student assistants:** Eugene Alfaro (TAMUCC music student), Dody Brooks (TAMUCC music student), April Ibarra (TAMUCC Fall 09 music student).