



Melanie Riordan began playing the violin at the age of ten in her hometown of New Rochelle, NY. She received her BFA in 2010 from Carnegie Mellon University where she studied with esteemed pedagogue Cyrus Forough. While at CMU, Melanie received the Harry G. Archer award for excellence in violin studies. She then continued her studies at McGill University where she received her Masters of Music in 2012, studying with Toronto Symphony Concertmaster Jonathan Crow. Melanie has continued her studies at various summer music festivals such as the Spoleto Festival USA, Orchestre de la Francophonie, National Repertory Orchestra, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, La Centre D'Arts de Orford and, most recently, Houston's own Texas Music Festival where she served as Assistant Concertmaster.

A champion of contemporary music, Melanie was a member of the orchestra for the American premier of Kaija Saariaho's opera *Emile*, and Philip Glass's *Kepler* at the Spoleto Festival USA in 2011 and 2012. Ms. Riordan was also selected to perform the world premier of Marty Regan's chamber opera, "*The Memory Stone*", commissioned and produced by the Houston Grand Opera for their last season. Ms. Riordan has recently performed with the Houston based early music ensembles Mercury Baroque and Ars Lyrica. She is currently a member of the Victoria Symphony, the Symphony of Southeast Texas, and a Young Artist with Da Camera of Houston, performing both standard repertoire and world premiers in venues across the city of Houston. An avid educator, Ms. Riordan currently maintains a large private studio of young violinists and violists throughout the greater Houston area. In her spare time, Melanie enjoys practicing yoga and ballet, experimenting with new and old recipes in her kitchen, and is an avid runner.