



Gabriel Knights-Herrera is currently an undergraduate student at California State University, San Bernardino where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance under Dr. Lucy Lewis and additional music composition studies under Dr. Kevin Zhang.

Gabriel has an extensive performance background as both a chamber and orchestral musician. He is currently the principal violist for the CSUSB Symphony Orchestra where he has also held the principal second violinist position. Gabriel has also performed as a violist with other symphony orchestras such as the Coachella Valley Symphony and Temecula Valley Symphony under Maestro John Mario di Constanzo, as well as the Southland Symphony Orchestra under Dr. Sylvia Mann. Gabriel is also a very active chamber musician having participated in a variety of ensembles within the university's chamber music program. He has had the opportunity to work with Dr. Lucy Lewis, professor of violin/viola and Dr. Wen-Ting Huang, professor of keyboard studies, in traditional performance practice, with Dr. Jessica

Getman and Dr. Esther Back in baroque performance practices, and participated in CSUSB Viola Ensemble. Gabriel has also shown interest in styles outside of traditional classical music, having played with the university's mariachi ensemble, Mariachi Los Coyotes, with Dr. Angela Romero and the New Music Ensemble directed by Dr. Kevin Zhang.

As a composer, Gabriel frequently collaborates with the New Music Ensemble in premiering his own and his peers' works. Recent projects include the premiere of his first orchestra suite *Acrylic Dreams* by the CSUSB Symphony Orchestra directed by Dr. Lucy Lewis in May, 2024. Other significant premieres include a commission for *Musica!*, a string academy located in San Jacinto, California that is scheduled for Spring 2025.

Gabriel is a dedicated studio teacher and is presently working on registering training with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. He currently is working towards completing several violin unit training courses and has plans to expand into viola teacher training afterwards. Apart from private studio teaching, he also currently holds teaching positions at Ontario High School and Montclair High School where he gives weekly group lessons to the violin and viola students.

In the future, Gabriel plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Viola Performance, continuing to pursue high levels of performance training alongside the expansion of his pedagogical and compositional skills. Gabriel's career plans include performing with symphony orchestras and chartering professional chamber ensemble performances as both a violist and violinist. He will also continue to dedicate himself to growing a private studio that provides high quality musical education to violists and violinists.