

Edson Scheid

Assistant Concertmaster



Violinist Edson Scheid says he first heard about the Aspen Music Festival and School when he was a little boy, watching a documentary on TV.

“There was a documentary about Itzhak Perlman, and he was playing something with one of the orchestras in Aspen,” Scheid says.

Scheid’s journey to adult musician and AMFS student began at a very young age. He was only 2-and-a-half when he tried to play his father’s violin. To mollify the toddler, his father and pianist mother bought him a plastic violin to play with.

“The moment they gave me the plastic violin, I was so disappointed because no sound came out of it,” Scheid says. “I threw it away immediately.”

Scheid got the real thing at the age of 3, when his parents rented a 1/16-size violin for him to play on, which, he says, made “an actual sound. I was much happier then.”

Scheid grew up in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. His teacher there recommended he move to Salzburg, Austria, and seek out renowned violin teacher Igor Ozim. Scheid did, and earned his bachelor of music degree at the University Mozarteum Salzburg. Ozim then recommended that Scheid study with Hyo Kang, a faculty member at the Yale School of Music, where Scheid received his Artist Diploma in 2012.

Kang studied under legendary violin teacher Dorothy DeLay and is also on the faculty of the Juilliard School. His students have included AMFS alumni Gil Shaham and Sarah Chang, and he taught in Aspen from 1978 through 2005. Kang recommended that Scheid apply to the AMFS. Scheid is now in his second summer at the Festival as a student of Naoko Tanaka, this year with a Gordon and Lillian Hardy scholarship.

For Scheid, the combination of nature and music in Aspen is what makes the experience so special.

“I always benefit from that, being in the environment where you have both things at the same time,” he says. “That doesn’t happen everywhere.”

Aspen also brings Scheid’s musical experience full circle, as he is in the place he once saw on TV as a boy. “Today, I see myself in that place. It’s a nice feeling to be in the place I knew as a kid, looking up to it. Now I see myself there.”

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