

Ron DeGrandis

Viola

Ron DeGrandis, who plays the viola in the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, has been part of the ASO for almost 40 years. His interest in music doesn't just stop there— he plays six other instruments, including the banjo, mandolin, and electric bass guitar; performs in three other orchestras and bands; and arranges and composes music. Ron's viola was built for him by Italian-born violin maker Sergio Peresson in 1976.

Though every concert has been memorable to him, Ron fondly remembers playing the banjo alongside the concert soloist in the Allentown Symphony Orchestra's April 2018 concert, "American Fanfares." He also enjoys the music of Vivaldi, Haydn, Mozart, Mahler, and Shostakovich, and is especially fond of Vaughn Williams's "Sinfonia Antarctica."

His love for music—and composing—extends to many different genres. His family, too, is part of the music world. Ron's wife, Janet, is a musician as well, playing the clarinet in the Marine Band of Allentown. At one time, Ron even had seven relatives in the Philadelphia Orchestra. Aside from music, Ron loves dogs, especially beagles and Labradors.