

# Valera Messer,

## Violin

Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: I play violin.

Q: When and how did you get started in music?

A: "Strings" was offered once a week in the place of music/art at the elementary school in Louisville, Ky. when I was in the 6th grade. I liked the idea of doing something different, and my mother supported the idea of learning an instrument.

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: I began playing with the Symphony off and on while attending Lamar State College of Technology.

Q: Educational background?

A: I earned a BS in music education and a MA in guidance/counseling from Lamar.

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: My inspiration has been my high school orchestra teacher, Barbara Eads.

Q: What is your "day job?"

A: I am a retired orchestra teacher of 39 years with Beaumont ISD.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: I most enjoy participating in a string trio, church choir, and handbells. I also like teaching private lessons, working in the yard and cooking.

Q: Favorite music?

A: Mozart and JSBach are my favorite composers. I enjoy folk music, hymns and songs of praise.