

Dr. Brian Buckstead is Associate Professor of Violin and Viola at Fort Hays State University, as well as conductor of the Hays Symphony. He enjoys a thriving career as a violinist, violist, conductor, and educator, having studied, performed, and conducted extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Thailand, and China. Dr. Buckstead is a champion of teaching and performing diverse repertoire, including music by obscure, forgotten, and historically underrepresented composers. In 2019, he released his first solo album, *Forgotten Bériot: Virtuoso Opera Fantasies*, featuring little-known works by Charles Auguste de Bériot. His follow-up album, to be released on the MSR Classics label, will feature music by Ignaz Brüll, a forgotten 19th century Viennese Jewish composer.

Dr. Buckstead received his Bachelor of Music degree from St. Olaf College, and his Master and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His teachers have included Beatrix Lien, Charles Gray, Jennifer John, and David Perry. Brian has held teaching positions at colleges and universities in Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Canada.