

THE MINNESOTA JCC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

JCC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Musicians, meet your principal cellist, Hayley Zacheis!

Hayley joined the JCC Symphony Orchestra in 2022, though she'd played for a semester while a Macalester College student. Her connection came from her college friend's mom, who knew conductor Amir Kats. Coming back to play in this group has been joyful for her.

Hayley has played the cello for twenty years. She grew up in Fairbanks, Alaska, and played in high school orchestra and pit orchestras there. She moved to St. Paul for her education, graduating from Macalester with a B.A. in biology and international studies, and luckily for us, she has stayed in town. When she thinks back on Alaska, she finds our climate is very similar, but there have been far more opportunities here in the Twin Cities. Her impression is that we Minnesotans are more polite!

Hayley lives in St. Paul with her partner and two cats Padme (yep, channeling Star Wars) and Spoons (channeling flatware.) She's worked as a domestic abuse advocate since 2017.

Her favorite hobbies? Music is one, of course, and she knits and crochets as well. Her current projects are a plethora of knitted socks and a crocheted strawberry bag. She loves to dance, and when asked, "Ballet?" she replied, "Nope, pole. And it's okay to include that!" This is yet another tidbit that distinguishes the St. Paul JCC from other community musical ensembles!

Hayley is too new to have a strong favorite musical memory with the JCC, though her favorite musical was back in high school, playing in *Les Mis* (musical based on Hugo's 1862 novel, music Claude-Michel Schoneberg, lyrics Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel.) The best opera? For her, *The Italian in Algiers* (Gioachino Rossini wrote it at age 21, supposedly in less than a month, and premiered it in 1813) was tops. Hayley's deep, rich tone has been a lovely addition to the JCC, and she will surely develop superb musical memories here in the coming seasons.



Hayley in Turkey, September 2023