

Emma Blanco BMus.

Emma studied at the Royal College of Music with Yossi Zivoni and Rodney Friend and has enjoyed a varied career since, with a busy schedule in London, the UK and around the world. She led touring comedy string group, Graffiti Classics from 2010-14, travelling the world singing, dancing and playing and has recorded and performed live with many prolific artists including Tito Jackson, Beverley Knight, Sister Sledge, Will Young, Muse, McFly, Katie Melua, Olly Murs, Imogen Heap, Jools Holland and Peter Gabriel. She has toured with the Heritage Orchestra and Pete Tong, and led London String Group supporting Jimmy Somerville. Emma appears regularly in West End and National Theatre productions including West Side Story, Sinatra, Funny Girl, Follies, Pinocchio and Cinderella. Emma was leader of the Young Musicians 'Symphony Orchestra and the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra and has regularly performed as soloist and leader with orchestras at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Emma has been leader of Docklands Sinfonia since 2013, leading them in their eclectic schedule at Buckingham Palace, the House of Lords, London Coliseum, the Barbican and Cadogan Hall. Emma has also led the orchestra in recordings at all the major London studios, including Abbey Road, Rak and Air Studios. Some of their recent projects include a premiere of Persian music and verse at Westminster Central Hall, a flashmob performance of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony at London Excel and the world premiere of Brontë the Opera at the London Grimebourn Festival. Autumn 2024 sees new chamber music and orchestral projects at Docklands Sinfonia's original home, St Anne's Limehouse, and a brand new UK tour *Ultimate Film Music*. Emma held long term teaching posts at Westminster Cathedral Choir School and the Junior Department of Guildhall School of Music and Drama, as violin/viola teacher and chamber music coach. She still regularly collaborates leading strings sessions on projects with Junior GSMD and Guildhall Young Artists. Emma has been Head of Strings at Tonbridge School since 2019. In 2021, Emma was invited to write all the Performance Notes at Grades Debut-8 for a brand new violin syllabus, published by RSL, that incorporates classical, jazz, pop and classical crossover genres.