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Posted Dec 23, 2017 at 8:36 PM

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She’s also a member of the Semiosis Quartet — “exclusively new music,” she says — the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (more new music), symphonies in Portland, Chattanooga, South Florida and elsewhere. She also performs at North Shore Music Theatre, and has toured with Josh Groban and others. She’s also a fiddler, and plays (and sings) Celtic traditional music in the Boston area.

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She’s frequently onstage with the Boston Ballet, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Symphony New Hampshire, and the Lexington Symphony. She finds time for chamber music in the Northeast Quintet as well. As a teacher, she’s an adjunct at Brandeis, Phillips Academy and in the prep division at New England Conservatory.

“It’s a choice,” she says. “I was principal at the Boston Academy of Music for 20 years, a position that I loved. I loved playing opera the best, and when you’re with people for so long, you develop a rapport. You know what they’re going to do.

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His day may include any number of things — he’s a stay-a-home dad, teaches privately, and has just started selling real estate this year, along with his orchestral responsibilities.

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For many of the musicians in the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, variety comes in performing with a number of different orchestras and colleagues. For principal viola Anna Griffis, variety comes in different instruments and styles — Baroque violin, and classical viola — but also in different professional functions.

Griffis also serves as executive director of Boston’s new music Ludovico Ensemble — “stage managing, librarian, personnel and playing with the group,” she says, “something I’ve been doing since my first year of undergraduate school.

Add to that a regular part-time position at Tufts University — “generally PR work, but really a lot of the same things I do for Ludovico” — performing regularly with the Albany Symphony, and various other violin or viola gigs that come around, and Griffis is a busy musician.

“It’s really exciting and energizing, but it’s also really hard,” she says of the balance. “We’re all doing a million things, and wearing a million different hats. I think that teachers and institutions are catching up now, on how things are going in the music world. It’s a changing career, and musicians need to know how to write a bio, or build a press release. You just can’t have a successful concert without administrative support.”

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A graduate of Oberlin (that's where he led the Royal Farfisa Disco Juggernaut), and New England Conservatory, Jesse began as a Suzuki kid when he was five years old. He's been with the NBSO since 2000, and became concertmaster in 2003. And now he's even more involved with the orchestra, taking on the role as a sort of community liaison.

"My relationship deepened this year," he says. "I started a chamber group with the youth symphony. I've been making appearances — this past month I played at AHA! one night, and I played a recital at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House. I want to see the orchestra thrive.

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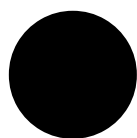
**When:** 7:30 p.m., Jan. 5

**Where:** The Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, 684 Purchase St., New Bedford

**Tickets:** From \$30; [zeiterion.org/nbso-kiss-of-earth-tickets](http://zeiterion.org/nbso-kiss-of-earth-tickets)

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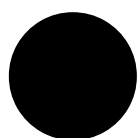
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