

James Slater

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James was born in Cheltenham and grew up near Bristol, where he took up the viola at his local primary school, following strong encouragement from his mother. He spent several years learning with Richard Crabtree, then earned a place at The Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester with Nick Logie and Roger Benedict whilst beginning to work with the major orchestras of the north of England. After graduating in 1999, he completed a postgraduate diploma and received the Certificate of Professional Performance . The next year, James' partner, Chrissie, also a viola player, took a job with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Cardiff. James moved with her and continued to freelance, working with most of the country's orchestras.

Following the birth of their first child, James and Chrissie moved to the north east when James took a position with Royal Northern Sinfonia. He's closing in on a decade of service now and has loved (nearly) every minute! He enjoys playing chamber music very regularly with the fine musicians of RNS and continues to freelance, guesting as principal viola, or playing with other chamber ensembles. He lives in Low Fell in Gateshead, close to Sage Gateshead, and enjoys walking, spending time with friends, watching his two boys growing up and occasionally, very occasionally, playing golf.