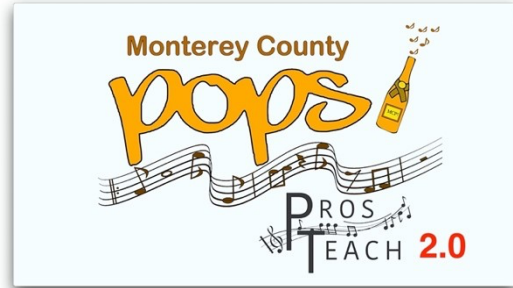


# **Violin Session with Amalia Diaz Monterey County Pops! - *Pops Pros Teach 2.0***



## **About myself**

My name is Amalia Diaz and I am originally from Colombia in South America. I started music as a kid since my mother is a musician but I wanted to be a singer. I say the violin chose me and now I love him back.

I went to school in my city - Bucaramanga- and then I did my master in violin performance in the University of Southern Mississippi.

My favorite violinists are Maxim Vengerov and Joshua Bell. I played with Joshua Bell since he performed with my University orchestra. It was amazing!!

I play different kinds of music with my violin, from classical to pop and Latin music. I also sing and play electric violin with my Italian band here in Monterey (Anthony Nino Lane band). I have participated in many recordings in Colombia and also here in the US.

## **The instrument**

History: The violin was born as we know it in Italy, but many countries attribute themselves as the creators since there are many similar instruments all around the globe.

It is said that the first instrument of this kind was the viola, and then the violin, the cello and the bass were born. They used to have different names like viola damore (viola of love) because of its sweet sound, viola da braccio (Arm viola) and viola da gamba (Leg viola).

The most recognized string maker families are Stradivarius, Amati and Guarneri, but nowadays, there are many good luthiers (instrument makers) that produce high quality instruments.

## Equipment

Buying a violin is like buying a car, the more you invest, the better instrument you get (with some exceptions).

Things to keep in mind when buying a violin:

- 1) **Budget:** You should save a minimum of \$300 dollars to buy a decent beginner violin. If you are intermediate or advance, plan to save at least \$1500 dollars for the violin and another \$500 for a good intermediate bow. As you get better on your violin, you want to get better equipment to help with playability and sound quality.
- 2) **Accessories:** New instruments come with rosin, but later on, you have to keep investing in new rosin, a shoulder rest (if you like), new strings and a cloth with cleaner and polish to keep your violin nice and shining.
- 3) **Used violins** are usually not better unless you know how to identify the instrument. Old and abandoned instruments require maintenance and it might end up being more expensive than buying a new violin. Get informed with a professional if you think the used violin is valuable. A label saying Stradivarius doesn't mean it is an original. The world is full of copies that have little value.