

Dear Cynthia,

It was very nice of you to do all this work for a reunion. I can't be there but, if anyone is interested, I can give an update as to my current circumstances:

I live in the suburbs of Chicago and work as a free-lance musician and music teacher. I got a master's degrees in bass (yes, the big one!) from U.S.C. and a Doctorate in orchestra conducting. I own a cute little house in Elgin, IL which I love. Basically, life is pretty good.

Say hi to everyone for me and thanks again for your hard work,

Alison Gaines



**ALISON GAINES, *Principal bass***

**Back Story:** Alison joined the RSO as principal bass in 2004 when she also accepted the position as Conductor for the Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestra. She completed her doctoral degree in orchestral conducting in 2007 and is Assistant conductor for the Elmhurst Symphony.

**Describe your instrument:** It is about 200 years old and the parts were made in France, but assembled in Italy – sort of a mutt.

**Where would we find you in the summer:** I play in a chamber orchestra at the Breckinridge Music Festival in Breckinridge, CO as well as do some guest conducting.

**What's your "funniest" concert experience:** At an outdoor concert, I tried to "clothespin" the music. The clothes pin exploded and part of it started to fly in my stand partner's bass (in the "f" hole). I grabbed it just in time and my stand partner yelled "Awesome" in the middle of the concert.

F.Y.I (in case anyone was curious):

My brother, Hunter, lives in the valley (LA) and has 3 boys. He is doing well in construction management with Parsons.

My dad is still going pretty strong at 82 (wow!) and lives in Arcadia with his wife of 32 years. He still works as a consultant for his engineering firm.

My brother Mark lives in Big Bear with his wife and 3 kids.

My brother David is married, is working in Architectural Rehab and lives in Pasadena.