

The Robert McDuffie Center for Strings is a unique learning environment with so much to offer. During my four years at the McDuffie Center, I experienced tremendous growth both as an artist and as an individual. The McDuffie Center was far different from any typical undergraduate music school education I would have received elsewhere. Because of the nature of this program and its selectively small size, my colleagues and I were afforded a substantial amount of one-on-one work with the most accomplished artists and teachers in the field. Through the McDuffie Center, I was able to travel and perform in beautiful venues from Florida and NYC all the way to Rome, Italy for Robert McDuffie's Rome Chamber Music Festival.

Macon, Georgia has a captivating history firmly rooted in music and the arts. Some of my fondest memories were of celebrating and performing great works from legends such as The Allman Brothers Band and R.E.M. I was constantly inspired by just how much the Macon community welcomed the McDuffie Center and how appreciative they were, and still are, of our music.

Having built strong and lasting relationships with my McDuffie Center teachers, colleagues, and even our supporters stands to show the caring and supportive environment of this school and community. Being a part of a family like the McDuffie Center for Strings and having a mentor like Robert McDuffie himself ignited my passion for the world of the arts, giving back, and working to make a change. I am fortunate for this program and all it has taught me, from the dynamic faculty and incredibly talented peers, all the way to its values and the individualized guidance I received. The Center for Strings, Mercer University, and most importantly Macon, quickly became my home and will always hold a piece of my heart.