CLEVELAND
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

Donna Jelen

Ensembles Faculty, Preparatory
Conductor, String Sinfonia Orchestra, Preparatory

Donna Jelen is conductor of CIM's String Sinfonia Orchestra and will assume the role as conductor of CIM's Preparatory Orchestra beginning fall 2019. She is also director of orchestras in the Shaker Heights City Schools. Jelen received a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music degree in violin performance from the Rebecca and John J. Moores School of Music at the University of Houston.

Jelen's violin teachers included Gregory Fulkerson, Erich Eichhorn, Fredell Lack, David Russell and Roland and Almita Vamos; she also studied viola with Roland Vamos and conducting with Jody Kerschner, Joanne Erwin, Timothy Weiss, David Effron, George Stelluto and Virginia Allen.

In 2011, Jelen was selected as one of ten Conducting Fellows at the Juilliard School's Conducting Workshop for Music Educators. She has conducted orchestral performances to enthusiastic audiences in major U.S. cities as well as in Italy, Greece, France, Spain, China, Austria and Hungary. In 2017, her chamber orchestra at Shaker Heights High School was 2nd runner-up in the National Orchestra Cup competition at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center.

Jelen was appointed to the CIM faculty in 2006.