

Since her solo orchestral debut at age 15 with the Amarillo Symphony, Ilana Setapen has been flourishing as a violinist with a powerful and original voice. She is currently the Associate Concertmaster of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the Assistant Concertmaster of the Grant Park Festival Orchestra in Chicago.

Recently Ms. Setapen has made solo appearances with the Milwaukee Symphony, the Riverside Philharmonic, the Pasadena Pops, the American Youth Symphony, the Idaho Falls Symphony, and the National Repertory Orchestra, among others. She is also a frequent performer on the Dame Myra Hess Recital Series in Chicago. She has participated in numerous festivals such as the New York String Seminar, Aspen Music Festival, ENCORE School for Strings, and the National Repertory Orchestra.

Ms. Setapen has won top prizes in many competitions, such as the Irving M. Klein International String Competition, the Pasadena Showcase Competition, and the Kingsville International Competition. At the age of 21, she became concertmaster of the Riverside Philharmonic in Los Angeles. She has also held concertmaster positions with the Juilliard Orchestra, the Colburn Orchestra, the American Youth Symphony, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the USC Thornton Symphony.

Also a passionate chamber musician, Ms. Setapen was for two years the first violinist of the award-winning Calla Quartet in New York. Her talent has also led her to collaborations with such distinguished artists as Ron Leonard, Lynn Harrell, Toby Appel, Peter Stumpf, Paul Coletti, the Fine Arts Quartet, Frank Almond, Joe Johnson, Todd Levy, and David Geber. Solo and chamber music performances have brought her abroad to France, Brazil, Holland, England, Monaco, and Italy. She is now the first violinist of the Milwaukee based Arcas Quartet.

Ms. Setapen grew up in Amarillo, Texas. She studied with Robert Lipsett both at the University of Southern California and at the Colburn Conservatory. She received her Master of Music Degree from the Juilliard School as a student of Donald Weilerstein and Ronald Copes. She performs on a 1624 Brothers Amati violin on loan from Frank Almond.