Alumni Highlight: Bianca McClure, violin

How did you first become involved with Apple Hill?
I first became involved with Apple Hill through the Young Strings program in Dallas, TX. If my memory serves me correctly, the Young Strings program had a partnership with Apple Hill and encouraged many of the students to audition for Apple Hill. I was 12 years old when I spent my first summer at Apple Hill—needless to say I was extremely nervous. It was my first time traveling alone, and I was pretty anxious to play chamber music for the first time.

What are you doing now? What is it like?
I work as a freelance violinist in Los Angeles playing for sessions, TV/film, both on and off screen. I enjoy the opportunity to be a part of interesting events and being able to flow freely in my gift as my career. Currently, I am preparing for a candlelight chamber music concert series highlighting works of Black and African American composers.

How has what you learned at Apple Hill helped you in what you do now?
Apple Hill most certainly sparked my interest and love for chamber music. Preparation was KEY before the first chamber rehearsal. Every chamber group and summer session taught you how important you were in your group. How to have a conversation in music—and how musical dialogue could be interpreted in many ways. Apple Hill also exposed me to different world cultures. Meeting international musicians of all ages was something that I personally looked forward to every session.

Can you tell us about one of your favorite Apple Hill memories?
My fondest Apple Hill memory was simply getting to know everyone, from all walks of life, with different cultural histories who came together to make music. We all worked so hard individually and gathered together to create something so special that took place. What took place for one moment in time would be etched in our hearts forever. Although we had coaches, we learned from our peers and were continuously inspired at every "mini meal concerts", hikes at picture (pitcher) mountain, conversations in the gazebo, or after a nice long ping pong tournament. We all unplugged (when unplugging wasn't even necessary), and music brought us together. Apple Hill will always be special to me.