

## Alumni Spotlight: Evan Raczynski

### **Q: How did you first become connected to Apple Hill?**

A: Through Hannah Bureau! Interview her next (: We were in orientation together in our first year at Boston Conservatory. I was looking for a new viola teacher because I wanted to use school credits to pay for lessons and I knew Lenny was one of the only staff who would take me as a Composition major.

Hannah told me about Lenny and Apple Hill and suggested I come that summer and try taking lessons from him. I remember that lesson vividly, I had never had the feeling of being intuitively understood in that way before. The impression that was left led me to study with him for the next 5 years and come back to Apple Hill many times.



### **Q: What are you doing now and what is that like?**

A: Nice open-ended question. I'm surviving, I'm quarantined, excited for the omicron to blow over. I'm currently enrolled at CCRI taking a coding class and a class on natural disasters, trying to prepare for the future. In other news, over the course of the pandemic I worked with my co-workers on organizing to form a union. When we did so the owners put it up for sale so [we got funding to buy and convert it into worker ownership](#). It was an exciting ride, and it felt really good to be a tiny part of the massive labor movement going on in this country. I noticed that an upcoming Apple Hill concert will feature The People United Will Never Be Defeated by Rzewski. Love to see the solidarity.

### **Q: How has what you learned at Apple Hill helped you in what you do now?**

A: Apple Hill gives us a place to try out a more cooperative, relaxed pace of living and creating together. And to center this around making music? I don't know if donors and audience members understand how crucial a kind of space like this is. I remember Lenny used to notice that I seemed totally different working and playing up there in the summer than I am back in the city. It was true then and probably still would be now, even more so. We need that kind of safe, soft laboratory environment away from the traumas of the world. I got to see myself at AH as the kind of person I wanted to be all of the time. I've taken Apple Hill as a template and I've used it in shaping my life.

### **Q: Can you tell us about a favorite memory of yours at Apple Hill?**

A: Sitting in the gazebo, listening to the quartet rehearse and watching the sunset. It's a place I regularly return to in my mind to find peace. I hope I get to live it again someday soon!