

**NFA Flute Clubs Committee Booth Event:  
Tips for Flute Clubs  
Featuring Dr. Elizabeth Robinson**

**About Elizabeth Robinson:**

Dr. Elizabeth Robinson serves as Assistant Professor of Flute at South Dakota State University, holds the Diana Osterhout piccolo chair of the Topeka Symphony and coordinates FNMC's annual New Music Composition Competition. Her upcoming debut album *Aviary*, will feature newly composed works for solo flute, solo piccolo, and flute quartet. Winner of the 2012 NFA Graduate Research Competition, her dissertation *Voice, Itinerant, and Air: The Solo Flute Works of Toru Takemitsu*, was presented at the 2012 NFA Convention. [www.robinsonflute.com](http://www.robinsonflute.com)

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) How do you unify the board, especially when members are spread across states?
- 2) What non-traditional leadership roles do you have in your organization that contributes to your organization's effectiveness?
- 3) How do you get membership to take a leadership role?
- 4) How do you keep your membership engaged throughout the year?
- 5) What goals does your organization have in terms of expanding membership, and how do you work towards meeting these goals?
- 6) How do you avoid burnout in leadership roles?
- 7) In addition to membership fees, what other funding avenues have you explored? What worked and what didn't?
- 8) How big of a role has social media played in growing your organization?
- 9) Did the pandemic have a net positive or negative affect on your organization? If negative, how did you course-correct?
- 10) What is the biggest piece of advice you would give someone starting their own flute club/organization?

\*\*Following the convention, check the Flute Clubs Committee website for a summary of the discussion.

**Tips for Flute Clubs**

- Develop or review your mission statement to ensure the organization is purpose-driven and the board is unified around your cause.
- Consider creating a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement or DEI Goals for your organization
- Apply for 501c3 status if the group could benefit from grant funding.
- Get your marketing tools together - create a website, Facebook group and/or page, YouTube channel, Instagram, tiktok, or other social media accounts for your organization.
- Plan for opportunities to listen to the perspectives of all your members and put them into practice.
- Delegate tasks evenly throughout your leadership and encourage collaborative planning and brainstorming.
- Register your club with the NFA database to draw in new members!
- Create and save helpful documents for future boards such as a planning timeline, price-friendly venues, t-shirt companies, past donors, etc.
- Plan events that appeal to a wide variety of interests and levels -reading sessions, workshops on improvisation or learning by ear, concerts featuring local composers or music styles, mindfulness, etc.

More Convention events dedicated to Flute Clubs and Flute Choirs!

- **Friday, August 12, 9:00-9:45 am at Reskin Theater:** *Mindful Flute Choir Warm-Up Session.* This refreshing flute choir warm-up session will use morning meditation to establish our present, intentional, and non-judgemental awareness for playing music together. Attendees should bring their music stands and instruments of choice (flute, alto, bass, or contrabass). Led by Dr. Mihoko Watanabe.
- **Friday, August 12, 11:30-12:30pm at Reskin Theater:** *A Look Behind the Conductor's Stand* presentation. Learn about the preparation that goes into conducting from planning a concert program to planning your rehearsals. Then we'll put the various conducting patterns into practice.
- **Saturday, August 13, 11am-noon at the NFA Committee Booth in the Exhibit Hall:** *Tips for Flute Clubs.* Join the FCC in sharing strategies for building and expanding your flute club – bring your administrative questions!
- **Saturday, August 13, 4:30-5:30pm:** *Flute Ensemble Conductors Meet Up.* Come meet with other Flute Choir leaders to make new connections and learn from one another in a fun, relaxed social setting!
- **Sunday, August 14, 12:30-1:30pm at Boulevard B/C-** *Celebrating and Evolving Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Our Flute Organizations.* Join Flute Club Leaders across the US as we celebrate and continue discussions about progress related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in regional flute organizations, highlighting innovative ways that they are working to evolve diversity, equity, and inclusion in their flute community.

Have something exciting you want to share with the Flute Clubs Community? Email us at [nfafluteclubscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:nfafluteclubscommittee@gmail.com) to learn more about our “Across the Miles” Article in the Flutist Quarterly or our new Blog that will feature local Flute Clubs throughout the US.

A Space for Notes:

## **NFA Flute Clubs Committee Booth Event: Tips for Flute Choirs**

### **Additional thanks and appreciation to Founders of the Iowa City Flute Choir:**

Liz Vergili – Flute Authority; Rose Bishop – Trevor James Low Flutes Artist;  
Heather Neuenschwander – Flute Specialists, Inc.

### **First Steps**

- Community Interest
  - Advertisement (word of mouth, social media, website, posters, local music store)
- Founders/Board of Directors
  - Suggested Positions: Conductor/Music Director, Social Media Coordinator, Music Librarian, Event Planner, Communications Director, and Treasurer
- Bylaws
  - Determine the age group and ability level of the ensemble
  - Enrollment process
  - Financial Consideration
- Rehearsal Space and Time
- Instruments (Low Flutes)
  - Partner with a local music store or school
- Music Library
- Performance Date
  - Have a “First” performance date set before the first rehearsal to give everyone a common goal to work towards
  - Reach out to museums, local art events, senior living facilities, libraries, religious facilities, schools, parks, government facilities, etc.

### **In Progress**

- Advertisement (this is ongoing)
  - YouTube channel dedicated to the ensemble
  - Register with the NFA database
- Budgets
  - Fundraising
  - Membership Dues
  - Donations
  - Paid Events
  - Local Sponsorships
- Build a Community / Foster Relationships
- Concert Attire

### **Long Term Goals**

- Paid Positions for Board of Directors
- 501c3 status
- Guest Artist
- Composer Commissions
- Professional Development

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