



2026 Performer Biographies

54th Annual National Flute Association Convention

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Hilary Abigana is a member of the hybrid arts ensemble, The Fourth Wall, exploring a new hybrid of the performing arts in which musicians are also dancers, actors, and acrobats. Stretching the boundaries of instrumental performance, The Fourth Wall commissions new interdisciplinary works and reinterprets established repertoire to make music that leaps off the stage. Abigana routinely plays upside down, while being carried, and even 15 feet up in aerial silks. She is a Powell Flutes Artist.

Omar Acosta is a Venezuelan-Spanish flutist, composer, and arranger whose work bridges classical, Venezuelan folk, flamenco, and world music. Trained in El Sistema, he was flutist and soloist in the Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar and Orquesta Sinfónica Venezuela before relocating to Madrid in 1998. A two-time Latin Grammy nominee (2021, 2024), Acosta has released nine solo albums, founded CIARTS, and composed works including Solo de Pajarillo and Concierto de Cajón Flamenco.

Patti Adams performs with the Louisiana Philharmonic in New Orleans and teaches at Loyola Univ. She served the NFA as president (2007), program chair (1997), and was honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award in 2014. In her parallel artistic life, she is an award-winning visual artist and teaches at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts. IG: @pattinola; pattiadams.com

Çağatay Akyol is principal harp of the Presidential Symphony Orchestra in Ankara, Turkey. After completing harp studies in Berlin, he performed with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden, and Mahler Chamber Orchestra. Akyol has appeared as a harp soloist with orchestras in Turkey and internationally. He has recorded several albums, including two with flutist Nicole Esposito on MSR Classics, and is a founding member of the Anatolian music group Arpanatolia.

Cheryl Alex is a flutist/vocalist/pianist/composer of the Northwest jazz scene. She has performed with luminaries such as Nancy King, Randy Porter, Leroy Vinegar, Lawrence Williams, and guitar wizard Jerry Hahn. She is at home with a wide range of styles, from straight-ahead bebop to tender ballads. With the release of her CD Take My Time, Alex begun to reach an international audience. Alex is also a musical educator for all ages, levels, and genres with an emphasis on small combos.



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Roy Allen is adjunct professor of saxophone at Texas Woman's Univ. and director of Instrumental Studies at Brookhaven College in Dallas. A member of the Dallas Winds since 1992, he has performed with area orchestras, including the Dallas Symphony. BM and MM, Baylor Univ.

Alba Allés Barber is a Spanish piccolo player pursuing a specialized master's degree in piccolo at the Royal conservatoire Antwerp with Peter Verhoyen. She is also completing a certificate of advanced studies at Hochschule der Künste Bern with Adam Walker and earned an MA from the same institution. Barber performs regularly with orchestras in Spain and Switzerland, with a particular dedication to the orchestral piccolo repertoire.

Nicaulis Alliey promotes the music of the Americas and a holistic flute pedagogy. She won first prize in the Latin American Flute Competition and the Ville de Paris Competition. She serves as assistant professor of flute at the Univ. of Texas Rio Grande Valley and director of the Music of the Americas Project. MM, Sorbonne Univ.; DMA, Univ. of Nebraska–Lincoln.
nicaulisallie.com

Matthew Allison is a flutist, educator, and founder of PracticeFlute.com. He hosts the international Solo of the Month community and has more than 20 years of experience teaching, performing, and mentoring. A Tomasi Flutes Artist, Flute World Ambassador, certified yoga instructor, and De Bono Methods trainer, Allison integrates performance, creativity, and wellness through coaching, workshops, and mentorship.

Gabriela Alvarado Pasko holds a DMA and is a flutist, educator, and disability advocate whose artistry is deeply rooted in both classical training and a commitment to inclusive performance spaces. Diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, she champions adaptive performance practices and advocates for accessibility, ensuring underrepresented musicians are recognized and celebrated. She fosters community by raising awareness for disabled musicians and advancing equity within the arts.

Heidi Álvarez is professor of music at Western Kentucky Univ. and second flute of Orchestra Kentucky Bowling Green. BM, Oberlin; MM and DM, Florida State Univ. She studied with Michel Debost, Kathleen Chastain, and Charles DeLaney.

Hideko Amano is an adjunct faculty member at Northeastern Illinois Univ. in Chicago. She also maintains a private studio and teaches at Midwest Young Artists Conservatory and Chicago Musical Pathway Initiative. Her teachers include Susan Levitin, Paula Robison, and Mathieu Dufour.



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Eva Amsler, Swiss flutist and retired professor of flute at Florida State Univ., is a world-renowned soloist, chamber musician, and teacher, recognized for her authenticity and expressive performance as well as for her holistic teaching. She is an advocate for contemporary music and equally invested in informed interpretation of music from the Baroque. Amsler enjoys sharing her knowledge and wisdom with musicians of all ages and levels, as well as being in nature and with friends and family.

Rio Ancheta-Johnson attends San Luis Obispo HS in California where she is a member of the wind ensemble, marching band, and honors jazz band on baritone saxophone. She is a member of the San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony Concert Orchestra and regularly takes a top chair in the annual County Honor Band. She studies flute and piccolo with Suzanne Duffy and has attended the Northern California Flute Camp in 2025 and 2026.

Claudia Anderson is a founding member of the flute duo ZAWA! (with Jill Felber) and the summer flute intensive, Passion Flute. She is principal flute of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony and teaches at Rocky Ridge Music (rockyridge.org). She has performed at NFA conventions and served on committees, and adjudicated. Her project, Glass Ceilings, a program of commissioned works by Eve Beglarian, Lisa Bost-Sandberg, Allison Loggins-Hull, Ali Ryerson, and Anderson, has toured the U.S. since 2022.

Isabella Anderson is an undergrad at the Univ. of Iowa studying with Nicole Esposito. She is a double major in psychology and music performance.

Lina Andonovska is flutist of the four-time Grammy Award-winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird, principal flute of the Irish National Opera Orchestra, and assistant professor of music at Emory Univ. She has collaborated with Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Recherche, Crash Ensemble, and stargaze and has appeared as concerto soloist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Winds, and Deutsches Kammerorchester. Andonovska is a Powell Flutes Artist.

Diego Espinoza, oboist from Lima, Peru, has performed internationally with ensembles including MusicaNova Orchestra, Bellevue Ballet, Seattle Music Inc., and the National Symphony Orchestra of Peru. DMA, Arizona State Univ. He works in audio production for Radiolex.

Cathie Apple is flute instructor at Sacramento State Univ., principal flute of the North State Symphony, and co-founder of the Citywater New Music Ensemble. An avid new-music advocate and baroque-traverso performer, she holds a doctorate from the Univ. of Michigan and teaches in Sacramento.



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Miranda Arana teaches world music at the Univ. of Oklahoma. She studied at Eastman School of Music during high school, then spent her 20s in Asia. Arana has performed Irish, Middle Eastern, Latin, Tibetan, Vietnamese, and contradance music, including with her flute and guitar duo Nuclear Okra. Her performances have taken her to Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian, and venues in Spain, Greece, Turkey, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Korea, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Eftihia Arkoudis is a Greek flutist and Trevor James Flutes Artist. She is an arts entrepreneur, performer, and pedagogue with a career in Europe and the U.S. Founder of EVA Arts Collective, she serves as Univ. of Florida Music Business and Entrepreneurship faculty, 2026 Tampere Flute Festival Global Outreach Coordinator, and Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra arts administrator. eftihiavarkoudisflute.com

Francesca Arnone is associate professor at the Univ. of South Florida. She performs with the Venice Symphony, Palm Beach Opera Orchestra, and Sarasota Opera Orchestra, held principal flute, second flute, and piccolo positions with orchestras in the U.S. and abroad, and has been a concerto soloist on flute, alto flute, and piccolo, on repertoire from Bach to Chen Yi. She is a Powell Flutes Artist, NFA vice president, and is training to become an Alexander Technique teacher. francescaarnone.com

Allison Asthana performs across the country. She is a member of Monarch Chamber Players and the Emissary Quartet and performs in the Mid-Texas Symphony and San Antonio Philharmonic. Asthana is the author of *Bansuri to Boehm*, which explores the intersection of Indian and Western flute teaching and traditions. BME, Baylor Univ.; MM, Boston Univ.; DMA, Univ. of Texas at Austin. She studied with Francesca Arnone, Linda Toote, and Marianne Gedigian.

Ginny Atherton creates music events with a STEAM sensibility and collaborates with composers as a flutist and conductor. She studied at the State Univ. of New York at Fredonia, Indiana Univ., and the Univ. of Southern California, and in programs at Brevard Music Center, the American Symphony Orchestra League, and Oberlin. Atherton served as woodwind coach for the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Bolivia with the Peace Corps and co-founded Delaware Pro Musica and Robinwood for flutists.

The Avanti Flute Choir is composed of amateur through professional musicians. The choir performs in an annual concert series and is devoted to promoting flute music. The group performs both classical and popular music, movie themes, and more.

Phyllis Avidan Louke, an Altus Artist, is principal flute of the Tilikum Chamber Orchestra and music director of the Rose City Flute Choir. She teaches privately, adjudicates, and freelances in



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Portland, OR. A clinician and adjudicator nationally, she is also co-author of an award-winning series of teaching publications for flute published by Theodore Presser Company. Louke, a member of ASCAP, has been arranging and composing for the flute since 1990, with over 150 publications.

Jessica Backes, Staff Sergeant, serves as flute instructor at the Naval School of Music, where she teaches Marines and Sailors following basic and combat training. She was named Marine Staff Noncommissioned Officer Musician of the Year and Marine Corps Intelligence Schools Instructor of the Year and competed in the Marine Corps Fittest Instructor Competition. Backes' previous duty stations include MARFORRES in New Orleans and 3D MAW in Miramar, CA.

Sungdu Bae is a flutist pursuing an MM in performance at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He served as principal flute in the Korean Military Academy band and recently graduated from Sonoma State Univ. on a full scholarship. Bae has participated in masterclasses with Jasmine Choi, Viviana Guzman, and Joshua Betty, and recently performed Liebermann's Flute Concerto, Op. 39, with orchestra.

John Bailey is Larson Professor of Flute and a member of the Moran Woodwind Quintet at Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln, and principal flute of Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra. He studied at Indiana Univ. with Pellerite and Northwestern Univ. with Kujala. With the Moran Woodwind Quintet, he has recordings on the Crystal label; his American Masterworks recording on Centaur is forthcoming. He has conducted the International Flute Orchestra. NFA president (2003-04); Convention program chair (2002).

Linda Bailey lives in Scottsdale, AZ. BM, Portland State Univ.; MM, Univ. of North Texas; DMA and theory certificate, Univ. of Washington. She teaches and freelances in the greater Phoenix area. She performs with DEF Project (Chamber Choir, Flute Choir, and Community Flute Choir) and the NFA Professional Flute Choir 2013-26. Bailey performs and commissions works for Eb flute, expanding the repertoire to highlight the virtuosic solo qualities of this delightful, quirky, and pitchy instrument.

Kathleen Baker (Nandin) is an acclaimed flutist, composer, and teacher whose career spans orchestral performance, international collaboration, and meditative music. With classical training under world masters and degrees from the Univ. of Calgary and Royal Conservatory, she has recorded with renowned artists and labels. Her work integrates music, meditation, and healing arts, offering audiences experiences of depth, presence, and transformation.



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Nicholas Baker is director of the Flute Choir of the Flute Society of St. Louis. He holds a BME and MM in flute performance and has trained extensively as both a performer and teaching artist. He maintains a private studio and is the creator of Elemental Flute, an educational approach centered on artistic identity, expressive freedom, and intuitive musicianship. Baker is committed to making flute playing accessible, joyful, and meaningful for musicians of all ages.

Alison Balbag is a harpist, health gerontologist, and professor at the Univ. of Portland. She performs as principal harp of the Rogue Valley Symphony and has appeared as a soloist, orchestral musician, and in film and television recordings. Her collaborations span artists from Stevie Wonder and Pink Martini to Itzhak Perlman. Balbag holds doctorates in music and gerontology and researches music, health, and the mind. DoctorAlison.org

Wendy Bamonte is director of Music Ministries at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Lake Oswego, OR, where she has led the 100-voice choir since 1999, expanding the program and leading international tours. She served as artistic leader of the Portland Symphonic Choir (2019-22). A professional flutist, she has held positions in the Eugene Symphony and Portland Chamber Orchestra and toured with the Broadway national tour of Les Misérables.

Elsa Bandli (she/her) attends Franklin Regional HS in Murrysville, PA. She has studied flute for seven years with Dan Parasky. Bandli performs in the Three Rivers Young People's Orchestra. She has been a member of the Mid-Atlantic High School Competition Flute Choir and the National High School Flute Choir. Additionally, she has participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Concert Band.

Jeffrey Barker is associate principal flute of the Seattle Symphony and previously served as principal flute of the Boise Philharmonic. He has performed with orchestras around the country and the world, including the Detroit Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, and the Singapore Symphony. He is a recipient of the 2018 Ford Musician Award for Excellence in Community Service for his work with the Seattle Symphony's Simple Gifts Initiative serving people experiencing homelessness.

Julia Barnett is a performer and teacher in San Diego who has appeared as soloist with the San Diego Symphony, San Diego Chamber Orchestra, and UCLA Symphony. She earned degrees from Rice Univ., the Univ. of Colorado, and the Univ. of California, Los Angeles. Barnett served as third flute/piccolo of the West Texas and Billings symphonies and joined the Hawaii Symphony as second/associate principal flute for the 2024-25 season. She also directs the Avanti Flute Choir. JBflute.com



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Sarita Baron is pursuing degrees in music and economics at the Univ. of Virginia where she studies with Kelly Sulick. At UVA, she is a member of the Charlottesville Symphony, Wind Ensemble, and Flute Ensemble.

Molly Barth is associate professor of flute at Vanderbilt Univ. Blair School of Music. She specializes in contemporary music and curates events combining artistic disciplines. Barth holds a Grammy Award and has adjudicated some of the nation's largest music awards. As a Vanderbilt Chancellor's Faculty Fellow, Barth initiated the "Together We" project of videos and collaborative performances: youtube.com/c/MollyBarth/videos; mollybarth.com

Lianna Bartlett is the newest member of the sales department at Burkart Flutes and Piccolos. She joined the Burkart team in 2024 after completing her master's degree with Demarre McGill.

Lindsay Bartlett is a performer and teacher in Lincoln, NE. She performs with multiple chamber ensembles, has a studio of 25 'flutelettes' ranging from age 8 to 80, supports small arts nonprofits with their unique needs and operations, and is a mom to two young daughters. BM, James Madison Univ.; Trevor Wye's The Flute Studio; MM, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Sarah Bassingthwaighte is a Canadian-American composer whose work focuses on climate and social justice. She is the winner of the European Music, International Satie, International Saint-Saëns, and International Couperin competitions, the NFA Newly Published Music Competition and is a finalist for the American Prize. The London Symphony Orchestra recorded an album of her orchestral works, *Orchestrating the Wild*. Bassingthwaighte teaches at Seattle Pacific Univ. and Cornish College of the Arts.

Jay Batzner is a composer who has *Done Things and Been Performed Places*. His catalog ranges from traditional to idiosyncratic. His works have been performed on all habitable planets in the known universe. His work *Mercurial* was a required piece for this year's NFA Professional Flute Choir Competition.

Jennifer Baunoch is an industry veteran whose career spans performance, instrument testing, and executive leadership in flute manufacturing. Rising from flutist and tester to executive vice president and chief operating officer at a leading manufacturer, she brings a rare understanding of both artistry and instrument mechanics. She is founder of The Flute Refinery, where she offers the Essential Care Kit, virtual consultations, and education in instrument care.

Robert Beall served for 15 years as principal flute of the Columbia Symphony Orchestra (Portland). He has also performed with the Oregon and Newport symphonies. He is a chamber musician in Portland, presenting recitals roughly twice a year.



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Christine Erlander Beard enjoys an international career with engagements throughout North and South America and Europe. A Sankyo Artist and professor of flute at the Univ. of Nebraska Omaha, she launched the #flutistactivist initiative in 2019. christiebeard.net

Julien Beaudiment is principal flute of the Orchestre de l'Opéra National de Lyon and professor at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Lyon and the Conservatoire de Rueil-Malmaison. He previously served as principal flute of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Beaudiment performs internationally as a soloist and chamber musician and presents masterclasses throughout Europe, North America, and Asia.

Bel Canto Flutes is a community flute choir that presents several performances throughout the year, spreading their joy of music-making through the virtues of the flute. Founded in the late 1990s, the ensemble is led by Bay Area flutist Gail Edwards. Bel Canto flutes will perform two world premieres by living San Francisco composers.

Autumn Bell is pursuing a bachelor of music education at Texas Christian Univ. where she studies with Shauna Thompson. She serves as co-principal flute of the Wind Symphony and performs with the TCU Symphony Orchestra, Flute Choir, and chamber ensembles. Bell made her NFA debut at the 2024 Convention in San Antonio, appearing with the TCU Flute Choir. She plans to pursue an MM in performance.

Michel Bellavance is a Miyazawa Artist who performs and teaches internationally and champions new and lesser-known works. He is professor at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève, guest professor in Beijing, and has taught in Lyon. Bellavance studied in Montréal, Paris, Geneva, Zürich, and San Francisco. He lives in London and holds Swiss and Canadian citizenship.

The Bellevue Youth Symphony sponsors two auditioned flute ensembles for student flutists. The Flute Orchestra and the Flute Choir allow students to prepare challenging repertoire for the entire flute family, including piccolo, alto, and bass flute. These are dynamic groups where students can develop ensemble and flute-specific skills in an enjoyable and rewarding setting.

Ben Bellomo attends Slippery Rock Univ. of Pennsylvania as a music therapy and flute performance major. He studies with Cassandra Eisenreich, and performs with the SRU flute choir, Wind Ensemble, and local community bands. Bellomo is a volunteer for the Humane Society and Veteran Affairs. He hopes to pursue a PhD in music therapy while performing in (or creating) various ensembles, and to work with dementia patients in music therapy to help provide comfort and clarity to their daily lives.



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Jennifer Bellor is a composer whose music has been performed throughout the U.S. and internationally. She has released four albums as composer, pianist, and producer, including *Stay*, *Reflections at Dusk*, *Oneira*, and *Long These Days*. Her composition *Chase the Stars* received a 2016 American Prize. Bellor is assistant professor at the Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, and artistic director of the contemporary music series *Nextet*. BA, Cornell Univ.; MM, Syracuse Univ.; PhD, Eastman School of Music.

Giulia Bellotti is pursuing an MA in piccolo at Royal Conservatoire Antwerp with Verhoyen, Lawers, and de Fleyt, and an MA in flute at Hochschule für Musik Nürnberg with Morzenti and Nakajima. She is second flute of the Bundespolizei Orchester München and has collaborated with Landestheater Coburg Orchestra, Meininger Hofkapelle, Polizeiorchester Bayern, and Orchestra da Camera di Mantova. She has received scholarships from LiveMusicNow Foundation and IHK-Kulturstiftung Nürnberg.

Laura Benning is a member of the Columbia Orchestra, Prince Georges' Philharmonic, Rule of Three flute trio, and DCFlutes, which she manages. She was assistant program chair for the 2022 NFA Convention and director of the Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention for 14 years. Benning serves on the Columbia Orchestra board and is a former Flute Society of Washington board member. She holds degrees in accounting and music from James Madison Univ.

Sebastijan Bereta, born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, began the flute at age 17 and graduated from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris with an MA in traverso in 2022. He performs with ensembles including Les Talens Lyriques and the Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal de Versailles and has appeared at the Bayreuth Baroque Opera Festival and venues such as the Philharmonie de Paris and the Château de Versailles. Bereta founded Les Flâneries in 2024 and teaches and performs in Paris.

Joanna Berg is principal flute of the Missoula Symphony, teaches at the Univ. of Montana, and is a member of the Montana Woodwind Quintet. She has performed with the San Francisco Opera Merola Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony, and Austin Symphony, and can be heard on the soundtrack of *To the Wonder*.

Karen Berry (she/her/hers) lives in Livermore, CA, and holds a BM in music therapy from Willamette Univ. She has performed with the San Jose Wind Symphony for 30 years and appears locally in solo and duet settings. In 2025, she participated in *Flutes in France* led by Elisabeth Parry, the inaugural *Star Flutes* ensemble led by Karen Van Dyke at Chamber Music on Star Island, NH, and three NFA Convention flute choirs. She is also a member of the Bay Bells handbell choir.



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Carol Bird Mellis is a music entrepreneur, adjunct faculty at Scottsdale Community College, and performer on flute and voice. She is founder and director of the Musician Enrichment Foundation and of Música da Pássaro, a Latin jazz ensemble. Mellis co-founded M-Squared jazz ensemble with her husband, Mark Mellis, and Mellismatic, her family's performance group. BM and MM, Arizona State Univ.

Rose Bishop has performed extensively across the US and internationally as a Trevor James Flute Artist. She is instructor of flute at St. Ambrose Univ., Coe College, Cornell College, Clarke Univ., Kirkwood Community College, and a presenter at various music festivals. Bishop is principal flute of the Southeast Iowa, Quincy, and Dubuque symphonies. Bishop is the founder and artistic director of the Eastern Iowa Flute Festival and the Cornell College Summer Flute Camp. www.rosebishopflute.com

Gabriel Bitá, collaborative pianist at Metropolitan State Univ. of Denver, is acclaimed for performances across the U.S., Europe, and Japan. A recipient of the Rudolf Serkin Scholarship and ARTS Award, he has soloed with major orchestras including Fort Collins, Fort Worth Chamber, and Filharmonica de Jalisco. Winner of numerous national and international competitions, Bitá studied with renowned teachers and appeared in festivals with artists such as Leon Fleisher and Menahem Pressler.

Meret Bitticks, Altus Artist, maintains a busy schedule as a soloist, chamber musician, and clinician in the U.S. and abroad. Based in Chicago, Bitticks is a registered Suzuki Flute Teacher Trainer and author of *Working with Young Flutists*.

Elise Blatchford is associate professor of flute at the Univ. of Memphis Scheidt School of Music, a past winner of the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, and a founding member of the experimental wind quintet The City of Tomorrow. She performs as a soloist and with the quintet in recitals throughout the U.S. eliseblatchford.com

Kathy Blocki, Flute Teacher of the Year, is the creator of the Pneumo Pro® and co-creator of the Flute Flex Pro®, both NAMM "Best Tools for Schools" winners, as well as Flute Zoo and the Blocki Flute Method. She also founded the KinderFlute training program and the Blocki Flute Institute, advancing excellence in flute pedagogy worldwide.

Peter H. Bloom has performed and lectured internationally, recorded 49 CDs, and received the American Musicological Society's Noah Greenberg Award for research and performance of 19th-century American music. He authored the Alfred G. Badger entry in *Lexikon der Flöte* and has presented lecture-recitals on 19th-century flutes for the NFA, Animusic Portugal, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, New York Flute Club, American Musical Instrument Society, American Antiquarian Society, and other organizations.



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Olivia Boatman is assistant professor of flute at Mississippi State Univ. She serves area high schools through private lessons, masterclasses, and adjudication. Boatman is a member of the Mississippi Wind Symphony, Starkville Symphony Orchestra, and Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra. BME, Mississippi State Univ.; MM, Arkansas State Univ.; DM, Florida State Univ.; and specialized study certificates in Music Education & Leadership as well as College Teaching.

Ella Boesen is a flute performer and educator from Arlington Heights, IL. She is pursuing degrees in flute performance and music education at the Univ. of Iowa with Nicole Esposito. For the past year, Boesen has served as the undergraduate assistant director of the Iowa City New Horizons Band. She also teaches young flutists privately in the Iowa City area. In her spare time, Boesen enjoys reading, going on bike rides, and crocheting.

Andra Bohnet, emeritus professor of flute at the Univ. of South Alabama and principal flute of the Mobile Symphony Orchestra, performs on Boehm system and traditional flutes and whistles. See andrabohnet.com for information on her CDs, bands, and research on the flutes and compositions of John Clinton.

Gitte Bongaers is a Belgian flutist specializing in piccolo. She earned her MA from the Hochschule für Musik Saar with Gaby Pas van Riet and is pursuing a second MA in piccolo at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp with Peter Verhoyen. She holds academy positions with the Belgian National Orchestra and La Monnaie Symphony Orchestra. In 2025, she won second prize in the piccolo division of the Dutch International Flute Competition.

Stephanie Bonjack is the Music, Theatre + Dance librarian and associate professor at the Univ. of Colorado Boulder. BM in vocal performance, Butler Univ.; MM in musicology, Northwestern Univ.; MLIS in library and information science, Dominican Univ. Bonjack's research focuses on providing access to music in hybrid environments and in saving and preserving our cultural heritage in the performing arts.

Katherine Borst Jones, 2011 NFA Distinguished Service Award recipient, is professor of flute at Ohio State Univ. and founder of the OSU Flute Workshop and Flute Troupe. She has twice served as NFA president, as well as secretary/treasurer and 1992 Convention program chair. She is a former member of the Columbus Symphony and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra.



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Lisa Bost-Sandberg is a flutist, composer, improviser, and she is the commissioned composer for the 2026 NFA Piccolo Artist Competition. She is professor of flute and music entrepreneurship at the Univ. of North Dakota and owner of Chromaworks Press. Bost-Sandberg has served the NFA in many roles, including Board secretary and New Music Advisory Committee chair. She has recorded for Albany, GIA, Cantaloupe, and North Texas Jazz and for the film *The Last Twins*. lisabost.com

Wissam Boustany has inspired countless audiences as flutist, conductor, teacher, and advocate for peace. He founded Towards Humanity, supporting humanitarian initiatives. Awarded a Lebanese knighthood and the Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum, he is president of the British Flute Society, chair of PalMusic U.K., patron of Musicians for Peace and Disarmament, and patron of the British Suzuki Music Association. He plays on a Brannen-Kingma System® flute with a headjoint by Marco Granados.

Diane Boyd Schultz has performed across North America and Europe as soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player. She has appeared with major symphonies, won national and international competitions, and performed at festivals and conventions. A dedicated teacher and Yamaha Performing Artist, she is professor of flute at the Univ. of Alabama and flutist with the Vuorovesi Trio. She champions new music, has premiered works internationally, and published articles in several flute magazines.

Kari Boyer is an advocate of contemporary music and flute instructor based in Cincinnati, OH. A member of the Emissary Quartet, she served as principal flute of the 392nd Army Band in Richmond, VA, from 2014-17. BM, Ohio State Univ.; MM, Manhattan School of Music. Her primary teachers include Katherine Borst Jones, Michael Parloff, and Marianne Gedigian. Boyer is a product analyst at American Modern Insurance and operations manager of the Cooperstown Summer Music Festival.

Riley Braase is a clarinetist, educator, and arts administrator whose research focuses on the science of music practice. Based in Tempe, AZ, he performs with Opuntia Winds, the Braase/Hannon Duo, Valley Opera, and Tempe Winds. Braase has presented research from his dissertation, "Your Brain on Practice," for NAFME, the ICA, and universities throughout the U.S. He is co-director of institutional advancement for the Oh My Ears New Music Festival.

Danielle Breisach is senior lecturer at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where she teaches flute and is program manager for the Master of Music Education program. She is principal flute of the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra and a member of the Madison New Music Ensemble. In Madison, where she lives, she runs a private studio and is the director of the Madison Flute Club and Wisconsin Flute Festival. daniellebreisach.com



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Allison Brewster Franzetti is a Grammy and Latin Grammy nominated pianist. Her performances include the Grammy Classical Music Tribute to Earl Wild and Lang Lang, Latin Grammy live television broadcast, and concertos with the Buenos Aires Philharmonic, Janáček Philharmonic, City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, and English Sinfonia. Brewster Franzetti holds degrees from the Manhattan School of Music, Juilliard, and Rutgers Univ.

Virginia Broffitt Kunzer is a teacher, soloist, orchestral musician, and chamber musician. She has performed and taught throughout the U.S., Asia, and Europe and is a past winner of the NFA Young Artist Competition. She is professor of flute at Auburn Univ. and principal flute of the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas. Kunzer is a Miyazawa Performing Artist and holds degrees from the Univ. of Cincinnati-CCM and Univ. of North Carolina School of the Arts.

virginiabroffitt.com

Liberty Broillet is a Portland-area flutist, piccoloist, and dedicated teacher. A Portland State Univ. graduate who studied with Marilyn Shotola, she is former principal flute of Orchestra Nova Northwest and currently piccolo with the Yakima Symphony. Broillet brings deep orchestral experience and a teacher's heart to her work.

Clara Brotons is the Brotons & Mercadal Edicions Musicals communications representative.

Stephen Buff attends the State Univ. of New York at Potsdam Crane School of Music, studying music education and flute performance with Brian Dunbar. He has held flute and piccolo positions with the Crane Wind Ensemble and Crane Symphony Orchestra. Buff performed with the Orchestra of Northern New York (ONNY) in their fall 2025 concert as 2nd flute/piccolo. He also won the Atlantic Wind Symphony Solo Competition in 2024.

Dana Buick grew up exhibiting at NFA Conventions as a family business employee. Throughout her career in medicine, she longed to return to entrepreneurship within a creative industry. Since 2010, Buick has enjoyed applying data-driven and emotionally-informed problem-solving as director of marketing and operations at Muramatsu America. She and her husband, Jeff, are proud to be second-generation owners and are often accompanied at flute industry events by their children, Scarlett and Maxwell.

Lillian Burkart (she/her/hers), born in Louisiana and raised in a musical family, fell in love with the flute at age 10. After studying at the Philadelphia Music Academy with John Krell, she shifted from performance to instrument making, training in Boston. In 1982, she founded Burkart Flutes & Piccolos, becoming a leader in design and innovation. She later led the company to employee ownership in 2022, and in 2025 received the NFA Lifetime Achievement Award.



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Ellen Burr, Yamaha Artist, made her solo debut at age 15. She has been a performer and clinician across the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Her articles and interviews appear in *Flute Talk*, *MTAC* magazine, *2T Flute Academy*, and *Being Creative*. She holds a Certificat de Stage with Rampal, BM in flute, and MM in composition.

Leone Buyse, 2010 NFA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, is professor emerita of flute at Rice Univ. Shepherd School of Music and teaches at OAcademy. Formerly principal flute of the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops and member of the San Francisco Symphony and Rochester Philharmonic, she has taught at New England Conservatory, Boston Univ., Univ. of Michigan, Sarasota, Music Academy of the West, and Aspen. She has appeared throughout the Americas, Europe, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

Mary CJ Byrne (she/her) is on the faculty of the Victoria Conservatory of Music in British Columbia, Canada. She is a performer, teacher, coach, adjudicator, lecturer, clinician, writer, and animateur to music travelers. BMus and MMus in flute, Univ. of Michigan; PhD in musicology, Univ. of Victoria. marybyrneflute.ca

Laurine Califano was born in France, where she began her flute studies before completing a BA in Dresden, Germany, in the class of Stéphane Réty. She is pursuing an MA at the Kunstuniversität Graz in Austria, studying flute with Matthieu Gauci Ancelin and piccolo with Peter Verhoyen. She has gained orchestral experience and has developed her artistry through masterclasses with internationally renowned musicians. She aspires to a career in orchestral performance.

The Camellia City Flute Choir, based in Fair Oaks, CA, is composed of professional and advanced amateur players from the Sacramento area. Membership is by audition.

Iris Cao attends Novi HS in Michigan. She is principal flute of the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra and Novi Wind Ensemble. Her honors include principal flute of the MSBOA All-State Orchestra, four-time All-State musician, and first place in the Southeast Michigan Flute Association High School Young Artist Competition, the Birmingham Musicales Woodwind Competition, and the American Guild of Music NAIC Woodwind Competition. Cao also writes, competes in Mock Trial, and accompanies on piano.

Capital City Flute Club, formed in 2022, serves the performance and music education needs of the greater Boise and Idaho flute community. CCFC performs regularly in Boise and hosts an annual flute festival. They will be joined by the Boise State Univ. Flute Choir.



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Clara Capriotti is a freelance musician in Peoria, IL. She graduated from Bradley Univ. in 2017, where she studied with Kyle Dzapo. She played second flute with the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra from 2018-25. In Peoria, she frequently plays with local theaters and churches, and was most recently heard playing flute in the 2026 Peoria Bach Festival Orchestra. Capriotti has been a nurse for six years.

Ben Carlee (he/him) is a Chicano flutist from San Antonio, TX. He previously served as adjunct flute professor at East Texas A&M Univ. and has performed at the 2024 NFA Convention and Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention. BM, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio; MM, ETAMU; DMA, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison. He mentors for the NFA Emerging Artist Program, serves on the Dane Arts grants committee, conducts the Madison Flute Choir, and is executive artistic director of the Madison Gamer Symphony Orchestra.

Daniel Carlo joined Burkart in 2017. He has played an active role in shaping the company's instruments, ensuring they uphold the highest standards of artistry and precision. Over the years, his playing has earned him awards in numerous competitions. A vital part of his work at Burkart, Carlo travels as a clinician and educator, giving masterclasses and workshops at prestigious institutions across the U.S., Canada, and Europe. DMA, Stony Brook Univ. with Carol Wincenc.

Sydney Carlson is professor emerita at Portland State Univ. For more than 30 years, she has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician, and recitalist. Carlson has performed throughout the U.S., Europe, China, South America, and Mexico, collaborating with acclaimed artists.

Sarah Carrier is co-president of the New Jersey Flute Society, flute instructor at Sarah Lawrence College, and assistant adjunct professor of flute at Ocean County College. She is a member of The Parhelion Trio, a New York City-based flute, clarinet, and piano ensemble that has premiered many new works. BM, California State Univ., Long Beach; MM, New York Univ.; DMA, City Univ. of New York.

L. Elise Carter is a flutist and an award-winning, published composer. She is the founder/Executive Director for Carter-Glennon Center for Arts and Nature.

Cascades Flute Choir is an adult community flute choir based in southwest Washington, part of the Portland, OR, metropolitan area. The choir performs at local charity events, outdoor festivals, churches, and high schools and colleges, and performed and presented a workshop at the 2025 Portland Flute Fair.

Jesús Augusto Castro Turriago is a Colombian flutist, educator, researcher, and a prizewinning performer and director. DMA, Univ. of Southern Mississippi. He serves as professor at the Universidad de Pamplona and is active in research and international performance.



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The Central Washington University Flute Choir comprises flute majors and minors. The 13-member ensemble performs on nearly the entire flute family from piccolo to contrabass. In addition to performing standard literature, CWUFC expands the repertoire through arrangements, particularly those by faculty and students.

Ayca Çetin is assistant professor of flute at the Univ. of Idaho Lionel Hampton School of Music. She has performed in Europe, the Americas, and Asia, including at Carnegie Hall. Çetin has received numerous honors in competitions, including those of the NFA and New York Flute Club. She is a Miyazawa Flutes Performing Artist.

Nicole Chamberlain, composer and flutist, has composed numerous works for flute and won the 2017 NFA Flute Choir Composition Competition and 2016-20 NFA Newly Published Music Awards. Her album *Three-Nine Line* was released by MSR Classics in 2018, and she co-authored the flute method *Beatboxing and Beyond* with Mary Matthews. nikkinotes.com

Rebecca Chapman teaches more than 50 flutists in the Dallas area and is vice president of the Texas Flute Society. Before moving to Dallas, she served as the adjunct flute professor at Utah Valley Univ., performed with the Ballet West Orchestra, and recorded dozens of flute tracks for musical theater soundtracks. Her primary teachers include Jeanne Baxtresser, Marianne Gedigian, Alberto Almarza, and Cynthia Mann. Chapman is a proud mom to 4 mini-musicians.

Derek Charke is a Nova Scotia-based composer, flutist, and professor at Acadia Univ. A JUNO and ECMA Award winner, he has a catalogue of over 100 works, including many for flute and flute ensemble. Charke is an associate of the Canadian Music Centre and a member of the Charke-Cormier Duo. charke.com

Linda Chatterton has performed throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Australia and has served as a U.S. State Department Arts Ambassador. She has received awards from the McKnight and Jerome Foundations, Chamber Music America, Minnesota State Arts Board, and American Composers Forum. She has commissioned and premiered dozens of new works and recorded eight albums. BM, Eastman; MM, Univ. of Minnesota. Her teachers include Bonita Boyd, Julia Bogorad, and Robert Webb.

Melody Chua (MELO) is a transdisciplinary media artist and flutist who creates immersive soundscapes merging classical training with electronic media. Based in Zürich, MELO builds interactive installations and performs with the AI improvisation machine AIYA. A Fulbright recipient, MELO has presented internationally at major festivals and is a research associate in 3D audio at the Zürich Univ. of the Arts Immersive Arts Space. chua.ch



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Lisa Chaufy is director of the McKay Music Library and adjunct associate professor in the School of Music at the Univ. of Utah. In addition to leading the library, she teaches graduate courses in music bibliography and research skills. Chaufy also co-directs the Early Music Ensemble and performs professionally on traverso and recorder. She holds degrees in music, Wellesley College; musicology, Univ. of California, Berkeley; and librarianship, Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Chao-Pei Chen is a harpist and educator from Taiwan who has performed with orchestras and chamber groups in Taiwan and the U.S. She holds advanced degrees in music from Indiana Univ. and the Univ. of Southern California. Chen worked for more than 20 years at HP Inc. in software development, privacy operations, and led Lean Six Sigma initiatives. Since retiring in 2023, she continues to promote music by Taiwanese composers and to perform.

Yvonne Chen is a Taiwanese-American pianist who performs widely as a soloist and chamber musician with Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra, WindSync, MUSIQA, Performing Arts Houston, Music in Context, DACAMERA, and Houston Chamber Choir. A Presser Award recipient, she co-founded Loop38, featured in Houstonia Magazine, Houston CityBook, Arts and Culture Texas Magazine, and the Houston Chronicle. She earned degrees from Juilliard and Rice Univ. (DMA).

Hannah Chiasson, Miyazawa Performing Artist, is professor at the Univ. of Texas at Arlington. BM, Oklahoma City Univ.; MM, Univ. of Northern Iowa; DMA, Univ. of North Texas. She previously taught at Luther College, the Univ. of Northern Iowa, and the Univ. of North Texas. Chiasson has won prizes in the NFA Young Artist and Orchestra Audition & Masterclass Competitions, the Atlanta and Frances Walton Young Artist Competitions, and the Myrna W. Brown Artist Competition.

Elisha Chiu attends Interlochen Arts Academy. He is from Frisco, TX. He began flute lessons with Hannah Leffler-Chiasson and now studies with Nancy Stagnitta. He was runner-up in the 2024 Donna Marie Haire Competition, played piccolo with the John Philip Sousa Honor Band, and a semifinalist in the MAESTRIO International Competition. In March 2026, he toured with the Interlochen Orchestra and Yo-Yo Ma, premiering Wynton Marsalis' cello concerto. Chiu holds a second-degree black belt in taekwondo.

Pei-San Chiu is adjunct associate professor of music in flute at the Indiana Univ. Jacobs School of Music and associate professor of flute at Tunghai Univ. She won first prize in the Alexander & Buono International Flute Competition and made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2012. Chiu served as principal flute of the Lexington Philharmonic from 2013-16, commissions and premieres new works, and received a 2025 Golden Melody Award nomination for her album Air. DM, Indiana Univ.



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Christina Cho attends Curtis Senior HS in University Place, WA. She enjoys both solo and orchestral flute performance and has performed with the Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony and her school band. Outside of music, Cho enjoys playing tennis and studying.

Jiyeon Choi teaches clarinet at the Univ. of Virginia and principal clarinet of the Charlottesville Symphony and Sinfonia da Camera. She previously taught at Purdue Univ. and is an advocate for contemporary music whose research focuses on the chamber music of Jörg Widmann. Choi has performed at Carnegie Hall and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. BM, Ewha Womans Univ.; MM, Eastman School of Music; DMA, Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Arnav Choudhary attends John P. Stevens HS in Edison, NJ. He has played the flute for six years and has studied with Amy (I-Yun) Tu for one year. He is a member of his school's marching band, which won the Group 4A state championship this past year.

Chung Kun Wei (Justin Chung), born in Taipei, studies with Anders Norell and previously studied with Liao Yi-Ting and Li Yung-Han. He performs with the Taipei Philharmonic Youth Ensemble. During the pandemic, he earned accolades in online competitions hosted by Canada and the U.K. In 2023, he was a finalist in the Osaka International Music Competition in Japan. In 2024, he won first place in the professional junior high school music class group of the Taiwan Music Competition.

Alaina Clarice is the newly appointed flute professor at Wichita State Univ. She previously served on the faculty of Texas A&M Univ.-Commerce and maintained a private studio in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. DMA candidate, Univ. of North Texas with Terri Sundberg.

Stephen Clark is assistant professor of flute at Northwestern State Univ. He studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the Royal Northern College of Music, and with Sir James Galway, whose teaching assistant he has been since 2017. Clark received the 2016 Sir James Galway Rising Star Award and won first prize in the 2018 IMKA Music Competition and the Alexander & Buono International Flute Competition. He is a Yamaha Artist and author of *The Flute Gym*.

Jennifer Clarke is executive director of the National Flute Association. An executive leadership professional in the performing arts, she holds degrees in music and English from the Univ. of Leeds, U.K., and studied arts management at New York Univ. Clarke has worked with Chamber Music America, New Music USA, Symphony Space, and others.



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April Clayton has performed and taught throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean. A featured artist at numerous NFA Conventions, she has appeared as a Saturday headliner and in the Generation X All-Stars concert. Clayton spends summers performing and teaching in Vienna, Varna, and Paris. She was a Starr Doctoral Fellow at Juilliard and received the BYU Young Faculty Award.

Holly Clemans, a Licensed Body Mapping Educator, is a past NFA Pedagogy Committee chair, editor of *The Flutist's Handbook*, Vol. 2 (2012), and NFA presenter. Former faculty positions include Concordia Univ. and Carleton College. She maintains a flute studio in Canton, MI; conducts the Plymouth Canton Flute Troupe; presents clinics on teaching and Body Mapping, and performs with Flute Fusion, Lower Michigan Low Flute Ensemble, SEMFA Flute Choir, Michigan Flute Orchestra, and as a freelancer.

Noah Cline (he/him) is the communications manager for the National Flute Association. Trained in the fields of flute performance and communication, he's taken these two intersecting fields to build a career in the classical music world. BM in performance and BA in communication studies, Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro; MM, Northwestern Univ.

Jenny Cline is an orchestral and chamber musician whose students regularly achieve honors at the local, state, and national levels.

Bonnie Cochran, flutist, composer, and chamber musician, enjoys dreaming up collaborations with musicians, composers, and visual artists. She has recorded for American Experience and is the flutist in HBO's *Olive Kitteridge*. Cochran is two-time NFA Convention Performers Competition winner, multi-year member of the NFA Professional Flute Choir, and had compositions recognized by the Arizona Flute Society (finalist) and the Flute New Music Consortium (honorable mention) in 2024. bonniecochran.com

Brennan Coffey is a clarinetist and educator who has performed with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Scottsdale Philharmonic, and Columbus Symphony. He has served as principal clarinet of Columbus Ballet and the Arizona State Univ. Chamber Winds and participated in international festivals. Coffey maintains a private studio and has received fellowships, scholarships, and competition awards.

Jeff Coffin is a saxophonist, woodwinds specialist, composer, educator, three-time Grammy winner, and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee who has earned international acclaim for his work with the Dave Matthews Band, Béla Fleck & the Flecktones, and more than 25 solo projects. He has taught improvisation at Vanderbilt Univ. for 11 years and has presented over 400 clinics worldwide. This is his first visit to the NFA Convention ... and he's very excited about it! jeffcoffin.com



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Jonathan Cohen is an engineer who wandered into the wonderful flute world in 2001. Since then, nine of his pieces have won NFA competitions. He is president of Flutes on the Brink, plays regularly in many groups, and he and his contra, Tiny, have served two terms on the Low Flutes Committee.

Cathy Collinge Herrera's performing and teaching career spans four continents. Founder and catalyst of The Flutopia Initiative nonprofit and Latin America's flute festivals, she is an NFA competition winner, NFA International Liaison Committee chair, Miyazawa Artist, and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts rostered artist. Her concerto *Celestial Suite* and other flute music is published by ALRY, and her book *It's Performance Day! Success in the Spotlight* is published by Theodore Presser.

Ariel Collins is a flutist and music educator based in Columbia, SC. She is a DMA candidate at the Univ. of South Carolina studying with Jennifer Parker-Harley, where she was awarded the flute studio teaching assistantship. BM in flute performance and music industry, James Madison Univ. (Beth Chandler Cahill); MM in flute performance, Univ. of North Carolina School of the Arts (Tadeu Coelho).

Caterina Compagno holds the position of third flute and piccolo with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. BA, Conservatorio Luigi Cherubini in Florence, Italy; MA in piccolo, Conservatorio di Milano; two MA degrees, Zurich Univ. of the Arts. Her teachers include Nicola Mazzanti, Matthias Ziegler, Sabine Poyé Morel, Pamela Stahel, and Haika Lubke. She has performed with major European orchestras, including Opernhaus Zürich and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Florian Conzetti, percussionist, director, and educator, is assistant professor of music at Linfield Univ. He holds degrees from Peabody Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, and the Konservatorium für Musik Bern. His solo, chamber, and recording credits include *Music@Menlo*, *Cal Performances*, *Stanford Live*, and the Naxos and Innova labels. Conzetti is principal timpani of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and artistic director of the Linfield Collaborative Music Ensemble.

Alan Cook, originally from Nashville, TN, is pursuing MM degrees in multiple winds performance and chamber music at the Univ. of Michigan with Amy Porter. He received a BM in flute performance from the Univ. of Tennessee, where he studied with Maria Fernanda Castillo and won the concerto competition. Cook has also won masterclass competitions with the Texas Flute Society and the Atlanta Flute Club.



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Darren Cook is assistant principal flute and piccolo of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra USA and owner of Canter Flute Repair & Sales in Beaverton, OR. He brings a performer's ear and a technician's precision to his work, serving students, teachers, and professionals through expert repair, thoughtful evaluations, and curated flute sales. He is certified in Straubinger, Muramatsu, and Schmidt Gold Pad service.

Jacqueline Cordova Arrington is assistant professor of flute at the Univ. of Oregon School of Music and Dance and a member of the Oregon Wind Quintet. As an educator, she has performed in residencies and has facilitated masterclasses across the U.S. She co-founded the Umoja Flute Institute and serves on the NFA Board of Directors.

Isabella Cortez is a master's student in flute performance at the Univ. of Texas at El Paso, where she also earned a BM in music education. She studies with Mafer Guglielmina. Cortez has performed with several of the university's premier ensembles, including the Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra, Flute Choir, and Marching Band. She has also participated in multiple professional recording projects with the University's Wind Symphony, serving as principal flute.

Lisamarie Coyote Windwalker has studied, cultivated, and honed her musical and artistic crafts for 45 years, and her work is both unique and broad based. Her distinguished vocation as performer, recording artist, visionary, sound journey guide, music therapist, ceremonialist, and teacher has included solo, chamber, ethnic, and orchestral performances across six continents. Her offerings invite deep connection, healing, and inspiration. [MysticPulseEarth.com](https://mysticpulseearth.com)

Emily Creedle is adjunct professor of flute at the Univ. of South Carolina Aiken and is the director of the KinderFlute Columbia program at Univ. of South Carolina. She instructs children as young as 4 years old, using the KinderFlute and Dalcroze methods. Her students have performed with the South Carolina Youth Philharmonic, All-State band, and have won competitions at both the South Carolina Flute Society Festival and the New Jersey Flute Festival.

The Crimson Flute Ensemble is composed of undergraduate and graduate music majors and minors at Washington State Univ. in Pullman, WA. Led by Sophia Tegart, assistant professor of flute, the ensemble loves playing arrangements of movie themes and pop music that feature the Northwest region. Go Cougs!

Jocelyn Crosby is a flutist and teacher based in Lancaster, PA. She was a finalist in the 2025 NFA Low Flute Artist Competition and won third prize in the 2022 NFA Alto Flute Artist Competition. Crosby was selected as a performer for the 2024 International Low Flutes Festival and as an alto flute performer in its professional flute choir. She has judged multiple flute and concerto competitions at the high school and collegiate levels.



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Allyson Cross is a psychology major with a minor in sociology at Charleston Southern Univ. The flute provides an outlet for creative expression, and she hopes to continue sharing music after graduation.

Kari Cruver Medina is a composer and pianist based in Seattle. Her award-winning music is an imaginative blend of narrative and nature that expresses a passion for literature, history, spirituality, and folklore. She likes to laugh; that reflects in her music too. She is a child of the Pacific Northwest--BM, Univ. of Washington; MM, Washington State Univ. Her music embraces many genres, from art song to orchestral works. If not composing, you'll find her in the garden. karicruvermedina.com

CSULB (California State Univ., Long Beach) Bob Cole Conservatory Flute Ensemble is composed of undergraduate and graduate flute students studying music education and flute performance. The ensemble performs four concerts each year on the University Chamber Music Series.

Alice K. Dade is associate professor of flute at the Univ. of Missouri, principal flute of Festival Mozaic, and on the faculty of the Colorado College Summer Music Festival. She appeared as a guest on PBS Now Hear This and has recordings on Naxos and Delos. Dade won the NPR The Moth StorySLAM in Detroit.

Carol Dale was associate professor of flute at the Univ. of Mississippi, principal flute of the Tupelo Symphony, and interim piccolo with the Memphis Symphony. She served as NFA secretary and on the Finance Committee. A founding member of the Mid-South Flute Society and the Pi Kappa Lambda chapter at the Univ. of Mississippi, she is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota. BM, Univ. of Missouri-Kansas City; MM and DM, Florida State Univ. Her teachers include Mary Posses, Samuel Baron, and Charles DeLaney.

Paige Dashner Long, Altus Artist, orchestral and chamber musician, and award-winning composer, directs the Metropolitan Flute Orchestra and the Florida Flute Orchestra. She performs and directs flute festivals internationally. Long is former chair of the NFA Low Flutes Committee and past president of the Greater Boston Flute Association. contraflute.com

Gareth Davies is one of the leading flutists of his generation. Principal flute of the London Symphony Orchestra for more than 26 years, he has performed and recorded with many of the world's greatest artists. He appears on countless recordings, as well as movie and video game soundtracks. His collaborators range from Rostropovich to Rosalía and Simon Rattle to Cypress Hill. He has also written a book about the LSO's first tour of the U.S. in 1912. Davies is a proud Wm. S. Haynes Artist.



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Keith Davis is pursuing a BM with teacher certification at Texas A&M Univ.-Corpus Christi. He holds the Islander Winds Music Scholarship and performs as principal flute of the Symphonic Winds and University Orchestra. During high school, Davis earned TMEA All-State honors and was principal flute of the Houston Youth Symphony. After graduation, he plans to pursue a master's degree in performance. His primary teachers have been Wheelin Han and Diana Sipes.

Jasnam Daya Singh (he/him), a Latin Grammy-nominated pianist and composer from Rio de Janeiro, moved to Los Angeles in 1987. He has performed at jazz festivals worldwide and received commissions such as *Children of the Wind* and *Jazz Concertino*. Daya Singh is a member of the Portland Jazz Composers.

Oscar de Manuel, Miyazawa Artist, has found in art, music, and Flamenco a way to express deep emotion. He received Spain's SGAE Foundation Award for his books of Flamenco studies for melodic instruments, won two Global Music Awards, the first National Composition Competition of the Spanish Association of Flute Players, and was a finalist in the 2025 NFA Newly Published Music Competition. De Manuel composed *Carmen*, the world's first Flamenco musical, premiered at the Teatro Real in Madrid.

Rebecca Deal is pursuing a BM in flute performance at the Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville, with Maria Castillo. A two-time concerto competition winner, Deal has also been successful in other collegiate solo competitions. As a chamber and large ensemble musician, she serves as principal flute of the UTK Wind Ensemble and Orchestra. Outside of music, Deal enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, and sharing coffee with friends.

Andrew DeBoer is head of the Music and Theatre Dept. and associate professor of clarinet at the Univ. of Arkansas-Fort Smith. He is principal clarinet of the Fort Smith Symphony and performs with the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas and Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. DeBoer appears on the Grammy-nominated album *Impossible Dream*, two award-winning recordings, and albums with the Wind and Wood Duo. BM, Hastings College; MM and DMA, Arizona State Univ.

Adrian Dee has been second flute of the Newport (OR) Symphony since 1996. He has also performed with the Tilikum Chamber Orchestra, Tualatin Valley Symphony, Portland Columbia Symphony, the Bloch and Mahler Festivals, Sunnyside Symphony, and other chamber groups in the Portland area. Dee's compositions have been premiered at the NFA and Mid-Atlantic Flute Conventions and by the Newport Symphony. He is accepting commissions. adriandee.com



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DEF Chamber Choir (Desert Echoes Flute Project) was founded in 2011 by Christina Steffen. The ensemble has performed at NFA Conventions, the San Francisco International Flute Festival, at the renowned Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, Oh My Ears Festival, and the International Low Flutes Festival. [YouTube.com/DEFproject](https://www.youtube.com/DEFproject)

Desert Echoes Flute Project (DEFproject) was founded in 2006 by Christina Steffen. The ensemble has performed at NFA Conventions, the San Francisco International Flute Festival, at the renowned Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, Oh My Ears concerts, and the International Low Flutes Festival. [YouTube.com/DEFproject](https://www.youtube.com/DEFproject)

Christine Delbeau is professor of piano at the Univ. of Delaware School of Music. A recitalist and collaborative pianist, she has performed at venues including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Jordan Hall, the Kimmel Center, the Tonhalle in Zürich, and the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. Delbeau performs with the Tiger Lily Trio and has appeared at the NFA Convention, ClarinetFest, and the Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention.

Hilary Demske is a concert pianist, Steinway Artist, and professor of piano and director of piano studies at Utah Valley Univ. She performs internationally and has released recordings on Navona Records. Demske holds degrees from Juilliard, Peabody, and the Univ. of Michigan, as well as a Zertifikat Meisterklasse from Hochschule für Musik und Theater München.

Douglas DeVries is adjunct flute professor at Houston Christian Univ. and a founding member of Monarch Chamber Players. He performs regularly with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Houston Symphony, and Baltimore Symphony, and has also appeared with the San Antonio Philharmonic. In addition to his performing career, he serves on the board of the Houston Music Festival. DeVries studied at Juilliard and Rice Univ.

Anamarie Diaz is a flutist, educator, and arts administrator in Richmond, VA. She teaches at her home studio, DiazFlute Studios, and at Randolph-Macon College and Virginia Commonwealth Univ. A strong advocate for music education, Diaz is the founder of the Community Flute Lessons Project. She performs with Opera in Williamsburg, the Chamber Music Society of Central Virginia, and as a soloist throughout Richmond.

Robert Dick, NFA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, is a flute soloist, composer, author, and inventor. Dick has revolutionized the flute's soundworld, creating literally thousands of new sounds and using them to create his music. He has performed and taught masterclasses worldwide, and his books are used by flutists and composers everywhere. The Glissando Headjoint® is Dick's invention. BA and MM, Yale Univ. Performances and instructional videos on YouTube and Instagram. robertdick.net



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Judy Diez d'Aux, artistic director of Les flûtistes de Montréal, has commissioned music by David Roche, Éric St-Pierre, Peter Senchuk, Jonathan Cohen, Billy Kerr, Nicole Chamberlain, Judy Nishimura, and Ali Ryerson. She has served as flutist and chamber music coordinator for the Assisi Performing Arts Festival in Italy since 2001. Diez d'Aux is chair of the NFA Low Flutes Committee. She resides in Montréal, Québec, Canada. lesflutistesdemontreal.com; jkdf flute.com

Judy Dines is a member of the Houston Symphony since 1992 and a performer in Houston and beyond. She plays with the Greenbriar Consortium, serves on the board of The Foundation for Modern Music, and is a member of the Ritz Chamber Players and principal flute of the Gateways Festival Orchestra. She has also performed with the Grand Teton Festival and National, Saint Louis, and Chautauqua symphonies. A D.C. native, she studied at Temple Univ. and Peabody Institute. judyflutey.com

Zart Dombourian-Eby, a Keefe Piccolo Artist, recently retired from the Seattle Symphony. Her teachers include Albert Tipton, Walfrid Kujala, and Donald Peck. Her solo CD, *In Shadow, Light*, is on Crystal Records; her editions of the Vivaldi piccolo concertos and Telemann E Minor Concerto are published by Presser. She has served the NFA in many capacities, including program chair (2012) and president (2014-16), and received the NFA Lifetime Achievement and Distinguished Service Awards in 2025.

Jadelyn Donoho, from Oregon, is pursuing a BM in flute performance at the Univ. of North Texas, where she studies with Terri Sundberg and performs in the UNT Wind Ensemble. Her former teachers include Sydney Carlson and Zachariah Galatis. Donoho participated in the Portland Youth Philharmonic ensembles throughout middle and high school.

Daniel Dorff's music is frequently performed and recorded. Over 50 flutists have shared Sonata Three Lakes on YouTube. He's written seven commissions for the Philadelphia Orchestra's education department, and the Minnesota Orchestra's Kinder Konzerts have presented his music over 200 times. He's been commissioned by Walfrid Kujala and Sarah Jackson, premiered by Jeffrey Khaner and Jasmine Choi, performed by Rampal and Bouriakov, and arranged music for James Galway, Keith Emerson, and Lisa Loeb.

Aralee Dorough performed at the 2023 NFA Convention as part of the concerto gala; during her performance over 30 Phoenix area high school flutists ran onstage to join her in a surprise entrance for her arrangement of Saraste's Carmen Fantasy. Dorough is a new member of the Wm. S. Haynes Artist family, and newly retired as principal flute of the Houston Symphony. Her orchestral repertoire and teaching content can be found at araleedorough.com.



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Kinard Douthit is a performer and music educator from Winston-Salem, NC. He is associate professor, assistant director of bands, and instructor of flute at Winston-Salem State Univ. where he also conducts the WSSU Flute Choir. He is principal flute of the Piedmont Wind Symphony and maintains a residency at Wentz Memorial United Church of Christ. BM, Appalachian State Univ.; MM, North Carolina School of the Arts; DMA, Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is NFA Membership Committee chair.

Brian Dunbar is a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral flutist. He is assistant professor of flute at the State Univ. of New York at Potsdam Crane School of Music. He holds degrees from Louisiana State Univ. (LSU), Univ. of Michigan, and Stetson Univ. He has also taught at LSU, Southern Univ., and Southeastern Louisiana Univ. A prizewinner in national and international competitions, he has performed and presented at universities and conventions across the U.S. and abroad.

Jessica Dunnivant teaches at Vanderbilt and Lipscomb Universities. She is second flute of the Jackson Symphony and a core member of Music City Baroque.

Nadine Dyskant-Miller (she/her) is a composer, flutist, and farmer originally from western New York. Her music draws on her background in classical music, the traditional music of Québec, Ireland, and New England, free improvisation, as well as her belief in staying connected to the natural world. BM with honors in composition, Univ. of Michigan. She studied composition with Evan Chambers, Kristin Kuster, Erik Santos, and Paul Schoenfeld, and flute with Amy Porter.

Adam Eccleston is a flutist, conductor, radio host, and educator. He is executive director and principal flute of Orchestra Nova Northwest, chair of the Recording Inclusivity Initiative for All Classical Radio, teacher at Reed College, and guest host on WQXR in New York. He has won the Miller Foundation Spark Award and other top prizes. His teachers include Paula Robison, Tara Helen O'Connor, Eric Lamb, Thaddeus Watson, James Galway, and William & Mitchie Bennett. Eccleston is a Powell Flutes Artist.

Gail Edwards is a San Francisco-based flutist, performer, teacher, conductor, and adjudicator. She is piccoloist with the Modesto Symphony and Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, and performs in chamber groups for the San Francisco Symphony. Edwards has directed Bel Canto Flutes for over 25 years.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Cassandra Eisenreich is associate professor of flute and music education at Slippery Rock Univ. and a member of the award-winning BETA Quartet. She is principal flute of the Butler Symphony Orchestra, a Miyazawa Artist, a Trevor James Alto Flute Artist, and former chair of the NFA Pedagogy Committee. She is a performer and clinician both locally and abroad and has premiered over 50 new works as a soloist, chamber music artist, orchestral musician, and conductor. CassandraEisenreich.com

Jennifer Elliot is the operations and communications manager for the financial services business, Boom Planning. She is also a freelance flutist and flute teacher in the Greater Cincinnati area. With more than 23 years of experience in the finance industry and a passion for the flute, she joined the NFA Development Committee as co-chair in 2025.

Cynthia Ellis is solo piccolo of the Pacific Symphony Orchestra and served as program chair for the 2010 NFA Convention in Anaheim. She has been published in Flute Talk magazine and the MTAC California Music Teacher magazine. Ellis is a Powell Flutes Artist and is on the faculty of Irvine Valley College, Saddleback College, and Vanguard Univ. cindyellisflute.com

Emily Elmore is pursuing a DMA in flute performance at the Univ. of Georgia with Angela Jones-Reus, where she serves as graduate assistant for the Hugh Hodgson School of Music Outreach Programs. Her performance highlights include Carmen Fantasie as soloist with the UGA Symphony Orchestra, appearances with the Chattanooga Symphony as a substitute flutist, and prizes in the Young Artist Competitions of the Atlanta Flute Club and Florida Flute Association.

Emissary Quartet cultivates connection and opportunity through performances and residencies that empower musicians and foster community. The ensemble expands the flute quartet repertoire by commissioning and performing new works, creating educational programs, and reaching out to new audiences to advocate for the flute quartet as a genre. Emissary Quartet has performed recently in New York City, Houston, and Pittsburgh. Members are Allison Asthana, Kari Boyer, Sarah Shin, and Chelsea Tanner.

Ensemble 126 is a flexible ensemble that uses historic flutes, world flutes, and the full range of modern concert flutes. Dedicated to expanding the repertoire, the Ensemble 126 commissions new works, holds a composition competition, and performs throughout the country. ensemble126.com



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Megan Ensor is a flutist, educator, and Miyazawa Flutes and Pettry Piccolos artist. A 20-year member of the U.S. Air Force Band, she performed as a soloist, recording artist, and premiere performer of Mike Mower's Picc Trix. Ensor has collaborated with Grammy and Tony Award-winning artists whose performances have reached audiences of more than 100 million worldwide. She is a recipient of the National Medal of the Arts and is also an author.

Anne Epperly retired from the U.S. Air Force after 21 years of service in regional bands. She has performed with the Virginia Symphony, Vallejo Symphony, and California Wind Symphony. She teaches privately in Pittsburgh, PA.

Julia Escobar (she/her) is a flutist and pedagogue based in Austin, TX. She is flute instructor at Southwestern Univ. BM, Texas State Univ.; MM and DMA, Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her teachers include Jonathan Keeble and Adah Toland Jones. Escobar is the author and arranger of *The Lyrical Piccolo*, a forthcoming publication by Theodore Presser that highlights trailblazing women composers.

Nicole Esposito is flute professor and head of the woodwind area at the Univ. of Iowa School of Music where she received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Collegiate Teaching Award and International Teaching Engagement Award. Esposito holds degrees from Carnegie Mellon Univ. and the Univ. of Michigan. She has published articles on Banddirector.com; *The Flutist Quarterly*, *Flute Focus*, and *Flute Talk*. Recent recordings include *Dancing in Dreams* and *Intersections* on MSR Classics.

Caleb J. Estrada-Valentín is a Puerto Rican flutist, performer, and educator in the Iowa City area. A Miyazawa Emerging Artist, he is the teaching assistant for the Univ. of Iowa Flute Studio, where he is pursuing a DMA. He plays piccolo with the Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra. Estrada-Valentín has been a prizewinner in competitions hosted by the Rochester Flute Association, South Carolina Flute Society, Flute Society of Washington, Texas Flute Society, Flute Society of Kentucky, and the NFA.

Lexi Eubanks is a Detroit-based flutist, composer, and educator specializing in new music. She has commissioned and premiered more than 20 works and performed as a soloist and chamber musician nationwide. A member of FLYDLPHN and Trío Líneas, she has appeared at Hill Auditorium, Tenri Cultural Institute, and the Butler School of Music. Eubanks also leads workshops, publishes research on memorization, and teaches in a private studio in Ann Arbor.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Alexis Evers performs with the Rogue Valley Symphony, Eugene Concert Choir Orchestra, and Oregon Mozart Players. She has appeared with the Eugene and Oregon symphonies and as a guest artist at the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium and SEAMUS Conference. Evers teaches at Linfield Univ., where she performs with the Collaborative Music Ensemble. She holds degrees from the Univ. of Illinois and the Univ. of Oregon.

Emilee Ewing is a flutist and educator in Laramie, WY. She holds the position of graduate teaching assistant of flute at the Univ. of Wyoming, studying with Nicole Riner. BM, Oklahoma State Univ. with Erin Murphy.

The Fairbanks Flutists have been performing in the far, frozen north for 44 years under the direction of Dorli McWayne. Every few years, they migrate south for a brief thaw.

Keeley Falgout is from Houma, LA. In 2022 and 2023, she earned a place in the LMEA All-State Honor Bands, leading to a performance at Carnegie hall as principal flute of the Honors Performance Series. Falgout attends Northwestern State Univ. of Louisiana where she studies with Stephen Clark and serves as principal piccolo with the NSU Wind Symphony. She has also served as principal piccolo in the NSU Symphony Orchestra.

Matteo Fanni Canelles is a composer and pianist working across contemporary and interdisciplinary contexts. He studied composition with Giacomo Manzoni and Roberto Doati. Canelles holds specialist degrees in piano, music education, piano pedagogy, and geological sciences, and a bachelor's degree in music and new technologies. He directs Ars Nova Academy in Trieste, and his music is published by Universal Edition Vienna.

Mikayla Farmer has performed throughout the U.S., including Colorado, New York City, and Illinois, and internationally in Ecuador and the Netherlands. She enjoys performing a wide range of music and served as principal flute in each of her collegiate ensembles. BM in music education, Bowling Green State Univ.; MM in flute performance, Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst.

Glenda Fegers is a Florida native now based in Boise, ID, and founder, executive director, and artistic director of the Capital City Flute Club. She has performed professionally in Charlotte, NC; South and Central Florida; and Idaho. Fegers is a lifelong music educator and flute ensemble enthusiast. BM, Furman Univ.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Sarah Feigenbaum attends the Orange County School of the Arts in the Frederick Fennell Wind Studies Program. She is second chair flute with the OCSA Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble and also performs flute and piccolo with the Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble. Feigenbaum is a two-time member of the California All-State Honor Ensembles and won first place at the Southwestern Youth Music Festival and the Musical Arts Competition of Orange County.

Jill Felber has performed solo recitals, chamber music, and concertos on five continents and has held residencies in Asia, Australia, North and South America, and Europe. She has inspired composers to write solo, concerto, and chamber works for her and she is engaged in several commissioning projects. Felber has served on the NFA board of directors and as 1993 program chair. She tours with ZAWA! and presents her Extreme Makeover: Flute Edition and Whole Flutes® seminars throughout the country.

Carlos Feller serves on the faculty of Ouachita Baptist Univ. As a clinician and performer, he recently appeared in concerts throughout South America, France, Italy, Switzerland, and Japan. BM, Unespar in Brazil; MM, Univ. of Southern Mississippi; DM, Florida State Univ.

Zu Feng Le earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Peabody Conservatory and served as personnel manager for the Shanghai Radio Symphony and Opera Orchestra. A flutist and craftsman, he worked with DeFord Flutes and VQP before becoming master headjoint maker and manager at William S. Haynes, where he played a key role in the Haynes Renaissance. Also a gourmet chef, he is now enjoying retirement and living in California.

Maria Fernanda Castillo is assistant professor of flute at the Univ. of Tennessee-Knoxville and co-founder of the Latin American Music Initiative (LAMI). She has developed a career as a performer, musicologist, entrepreneur, and educator in Latin America and the U.S.
mariafcastillo.com

Charles Fernandez is an award-winning composer from New Orleans, LA. He is a well-known orchestrator of film, television, and the concert hall, including Disney, MGM, and Artisan films plus several Disney television series. His credits include Bonkers, Doug, Toonsylvania, Casper (two Emmy and one Annie nomination), the Aladdin series, the Mermaid series, the 101 Dalmatians series, and Robot Chicken, as well as films such as All Dogs Go to Heaven II and The Butterfly Effect.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Adriana Ferreira is principal flute of the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome; former principal flute of the Rotterdam Philharmonic, and former associate principal flute of the Orchestre National de France. A first prize winner of the Carl Nielsen Competition, she is also a prize winner of major competitions, including Geneva and Kobe. Born in Portugal, she graduated from the Conservatoire de Paris and has a career as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player.

Fireflutes began at Chabot College in Hayward, CA, in 2015 as an opportunity for the flute students there to gain ensemble-playing experience. It has since grown into a community offering that has drawn a number of members and operates as part of the East Bay Symphonic Band, a nonprofit organization and wind ensemble that is dedicated to sharing their music with audiences in and around the San Francisco Bay Area.

Sharon Floyd is a retired elementary school teacher in Ridgefield, WA. She holds a certificate in musical instrument repair from Renton Technical College and a master's degree in teaching from George Fox Univ. Additionally, she has worked in flute sales for JL Smith, Flute World, and Carolyn Nussbaum. Floyd performs with the Southwest Washington Symphony and the Cascades Flute Choir.

The Flute Society of St. Louis Flute Choir performs diverse repertoire with a warm, unified sound. Directed by Nicholas Baker, the group fosters creativity, connection, and artistic growth through performances and regional collaborations.

FluteSonic Orchestra was founded in 2014 by David Shostac, former principal flute of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and Gordon Halligan. They drew on the deep pool of gifted players in the Los Angeles area, and included some unusual instruments such as string bass, contrabass clarinet, and keyboards. The orchestra prides itself on inspirational performances and varied repertoire including new works and arrangements.

Flûtrange, the Pacific Northwest's largest LGBTQ+ flute choir, blends the full flute family into lively, inclusive performances that highlight queer artistry and shared joy.

Alane Foose works as a freelance musician in the Altoona, PA, area, primarily in musical theater. She has performed with the Allegheny Highlands Chamber Trio, State of Mind contemporary quartet, National LGBTQIA+ Flute Choir, Raystown Wind Orchestra, and several other small and large ensembles as member, section lead, and featured soloist. She recently retired after working more than 30 years in counseling and behavior analysis. BM in flute performance and MA in counseling, West Virginia Univ.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Lucy Foshay earned first prize (senior division) at the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention. She is also the 2024-25 winner of the Youth Orchestras of Central Virginia Concerto Competition. At just 16 years old, Foshay successfully auditioned for the Charlottesville Symphony and was selected as one of their flutists for the 2025-26 season. She studies with Angela Kelly and has honed her chamber music skills at the Interlochen Arts Camp and Brevard Music Center Summer Institute.

Dane Frandsen, hailing from Washington, D.C., is a graduate student at the Univ. of Missouri-Kansas City. He is the flutist with the graduate fellowship woodwind quintet, Plaza Winds. Frandsen is guided by a mission to engage communities and expand access to classical music for audiences who might not experience the arts. He has collaborated with various composers, including Nina Shekhar, Gala Flagello, and Jonathan Wyatt, bringing innovative chamber music performances to diverse audiences.

Carlos Franzetti is a multiple Latin Grammy-winner. He is a composer of symphonies, concertos, operas, chamber music, and big band jazz, and has arranged music for major U.S. and international orchestras. His film scores include *Beat Street*, *Misunderstood*, *The Mambo Kings*, *La Película del Rey*, and *Q & A*.

Fresno State Flute Ensemble features students majoring in music education, music composition, and music performance.

Olivia Friedemann, from Norman, OK, is pursuing a BM in flute performance at the Univ. of North Texas, where she studies with Terri Sundberg and performs in the Wind Orchestra. She was a winner in the 2025 NFA Collegiate Flute Choir Competition and the 2026 Oklahoma Flute Society Undergraduate Masterclass, and a finalist in the 2026 Oklahoma Flute Society Collegiate Solo Competition.

Sarah Frisof was the second-prize winner of both the NFA Young Artist Competition and the Heida Hermanns International Woodwind Competition, and she was a semi-finalist in the 2009 Kobe International Flute Competition. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Juilliard, and the Univ. of Michigan, Frisof is associate professor of flute at the Univ. of Maryland.

The Frost Flute Ensemble at the Univ. of Miami Frost School of Music brings together undergraduate and graduate flute students in a collaborative setting, performing repertoire from all periods, including works by Frost composers.

Angela Fu attends Homestead HS, where she performs in Wind Ensemble 1 and the Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Golden State Youth Orchestra Symphony Orchestra. She has also been a member of honor bands including the CBDA All-State Honor Band (2023–26).



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Haruna Fukazawa is a New York–based Grammy-nominated jazz flutist, improviser, and composer, and member of the NFA Jazz Committee. Classically trained at Musashino Academia Musicae, she moved to New York City to study with Frank Wess. She performs on a 9k gold Muramatsu flute. harunaflute.net

Peter Fung (cavaquinho) has performed Brazilian music in Portland since 2000. Founder of Dia do Choro PDX and co-founder of Choro da Alegria, he has performed with the Manhattan Samba School (New York City), Lions of Batucada (Portland), and Samba do Coração (San Francisco Bay Area). Fung is also a core member of Portland's Brazilian music community through Alma Brasileira, the Brazillionaires, Popgoji, Bloco Alegria, and Sambacana.

Alexandra Funk is from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and studies with Erika Boysen while pursuing an MM in flute performance at the Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro. She earned a BM in music education from the Univ. of North Dakota, where she studied with Lisa Bost-Sandberg. She anticipates a career as an elementary music teacher, where she hopes to share the joy of music with many students. In everything, she seeks to glorify God and reflect His greater beauty through the beauty of music.

Ráyo Furuta, the “Rockstar of the Flute” (Informador de Guadalajara), is a Burkart Artist and international concerto soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. He is professor of flute at San José State Univ. and has presented masterclasses at Juilliard, Oberlin, Cleveland Institute of Music, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and other leading institutions. Furuta is also artistic director of Chamber Music Silicon Valley.

Zachariah Galatis (he/him) is solo piccolo of the Oregon Symphony and assistant professor of flute at Portland State Univ., where he also teaches musical theater. He won first prize in the 2012 NFA Piccolo Artist Competition. BM, State Univ. of New York at Potsdam, Crane School of Music; MM, GPD, and DMA-ABD, Peabody Conservatory. His principal teachers and mentors are Laurie Sokoloff and Marina Piccinini.

Christine Gangelhoff is professor of music at the Univ. of the Bahamas, a flutist, scholar, and educator. She is artistic director of the Nassau Music Society and co-founder of the chamber ensemble C Force, with performances across the Caribbean, U.S., and Canada. Gangelhoff has presented regional repertoire at the NFA Convention, the American Composers Orchestra's SONiC Festival, and other events. Her recordings with C Force feature works by Caribbean composers. She is a Powell Flutes Artist.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Maria Garcia is a Portland pianist and All Classical artist-in-residence. A graduate of New England Conservatory and the State Univ. of New York at Stony Brook, she began piano studies in her native Puerto Rico at age 4. Garcia is a sought-after collaborator who performs locally with Third Angle and 45th Parallel.

Mariana Gariazzo holds academic positions at the Univ. of Illinois Chicago, Elmhurst Univ., and VanderCook College of Music. An advocate for contemporary music and a low flute specialist, she performs throughout the Chicago area. Gariazzo is a past president of the Chicago Flute Club and served as 2025 NFA program chair. MM, Yale Univ.; DMA, Univ. of Texas at Austin. marianagariazzo.com

Lisa Garner Santa, professor of flute at Texas Tech Univ. and director of the Institute for Faculty Excellence, is a performer and teacher. She has served the NFA as a Board member and program chair, and appears as a recitalist and clinician.

Leonard Garrison, recipient of the 2024 NFA Distinguished Service Award, has served as convention program chair, president, secretary, and treasurer. Professor emeritus of flute at the Univ. of Idaho, he is flutist with the Scott/Garrison Duo and the Walla Walla Symphony. leonardgarrison.com

Marion Garver is a Canadian-American low flutes specialist. BFA in flute performance, California Institute of the Arts; MA in flute performance, Univ. of California, San Diego. She has performed with Duran Duran, the Violent Femmes, the Game Music Ensemble at UCLA, and electroacoustic, pop, rock, and Afro-Cuban funk bands. Garver is a representative of the Kingma Flute Company and performs exclusively on Kingma System flutes.

Colin Gatwood, oboist and recording artist, has been a member of the Houston Symphony for the last 30 years. He grew up in Pittsburgh and studied with James Caldwell at Oberlin, where he met his wife, flutist Aralee Dorough. You can find his reimagining of the music of Jean-Luc Ponty at colingatwood.bandcamp.com.

Susan Geaney (she/her) is an Irish composer, flautist, and artist exploring sound, space, and Deep Listening through immersive, drone-based environments. Her release Tape Melt was named among Bandcamp's Best Experimental Music of 2022. MA, Univ. College Cork. She has collaborated with Quiet Music Ensemble and Kirkos Ensemble. She also leads the project Sounds from My Window, which bridges experimental music and community health.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Marianne Gedigian is professor of flute at Rice Univ. and former Butler professor and a University Distinguished Teaching Professor at Univ. of Texas at Austin. She served as acting principal flute of the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, and Pittsburgh Symphony. Gedigian authored *Survival of the Flutist* (illustrated by Patti Adams; Flutistry Boston) and can be heard on the soundtracks for *Saving Private Ryan* and *Schindler's List*. Her teachers include Buyse, Dwyer, Barone, and Rofe-Olkowski.

Savannah Gentry is a flutist whose solo performances include guest artist recitals for the Greater Portland Flute Society Flute Fair and Willamette Univ. She was a quarterfinalist in the NFA Young Artist Competition and has performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra USA, Newport Symphony, and Eugene Symphony. She holds graduate degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and Indiana Univ. Gentry is pursuing a DMA at the Univ. of Oregon.

The Georgia State University Flute Choir is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students in the flute studio of Jessica Petrasek. They first met at the 2025 NFA Convention in Atlanta, around the corner from their school, and quickly made it their goal to travel as a group to the 2026 NFA Convention in Oregon.

Emily Gerace Stanek is flute instructor at Willamette Univ., Corban Univ., and Chemeketa Community College. She was acting second flute of the Oregon Symphony (2024–26) and freelances with the Eugene Symphony, Eugene Opera, Portland Opera, Opera in the Park, Oregon Bach Festival, and 45th Parallel Universe. She won the 2003 NFA Orchestral Audition & Masterclass Competition, the 2011 NFA Masterclass Performers Competition, and the NFA Convention Performers Competition in 2020 and 2023.

Mehrdad Gholami is assistant professor of flute at Western Washington Univ. Mehrdad has championed contemporary Iranian music and has served as the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble's flutist for three years. [MehrdadGholami.com](https://mehrdadgholami.com)

Preston Gilbert, staff sergeant in the West Point Band, joined in 2023. BM in music education, Univ. of Utah. Before joining the band, he was the director of percussion at Maple Mountain HS in Spanish Fork, UT. As a rudimental percussionist, he performed with the Battalion Drum and Bugle Corps and Gold Spike Percussion. In his free time, Gilbert enjoys spending time with his wife Taylor and their dog Junie B. Jones.

Gabriela Gimenes is originally from São Paulo, Brazil. Since moving to Portland, OR, she has taught at the Univ. of Mobile Online and performs with numerous groups throughout the Pacific Northwest. Gimenes also serves as chair of the NFA Youth Engagement Committee and as vice president for the Greater Portland Flute Society.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Oihana Gimenez is a flute and piccolo player based in the Basque Country. After graduating magna cum laude in piccolo at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerpen, she has performed as a freelance musician with the OBC (Orquestra de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya), OEX (Orquesta de Extremadura), and OSV (Orquestra Sinfònica del Vallès). Gimenez is a member of Orquesta Reino de Aragón and a private teacher in the Basque Country.

Artur Girskey is a violinist in the Seattle Symphony.

Lilly Glasheen attends Camas HS and studies flute with Corrie Cook at Coda Flutes. She has played flute for just over five years.

Aaron Goldman is principal flute of the National Symphony Orchestra, appointed by Christoph Eschenbach in 2012. A frequent concerto soloist with the NSO, he has also appeared with orchestras and festivals nationwide. Goldman serves on the faculties of DePaul Univ., the Peabody Institute, Catholic Univ. of America, and teaches regularly at the National Symphony Orchestra's Summer Music Institute and Youth Fellowship Program. BM, Eastman, where he studied with Bonita Boyd.

Goldfinch Flutes was established in 2023 by Stephanie Kolokotroni Jones and Elizabeth Jolly after years desiring a flute ensemble that could tackle new and challenging music at a high caliber. With the goal of performing works not often featured in flute ensemble concerts, Goldfinch Flutes records all performances to provide high-quality recordings to the public.

Ai Goldsmith performs in the U.S. and abroad, including solo recitals and chamber music with members of the Kobe Symphony in Japan and at the British and Canadian Flute Festivals. She has been a featured guest artist at the Sacramento, Fresno, and Univ. of Nevada–Reno Flute Festivals. Her recording with pianist Miles Graber, *Les exquises Allégories*, enjoys continued international radio play. Goldsmith teaches at universities, festivals, and in her private studio in Cupertino, CA.

Robin Goldstein has performed with the La Jolla Symphony, Mills Contemporary Ensemble, Gamelan Pacifica, and Puget Sound Symphony. She is a member and featured soloist with the Seattle Flute Society and River Winds flute choirs and performs with the Redmond Tech Orchestra. BA in music in flute performance and composition, Univ. of California San Diego; MFA in electronic music and recording media, Mills College.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Raúl Gómez-Rojas leads professional orchestras and new music ensembles in the U.S. and Latin America. In Portland, he is a frequent guest conductor with the Oregon Symphony, Oregon Ballet Theatre Orchestra, 45th Parallel Universe, Fear No Music, and Third Angle New Music. 2025-26 marked his 10th season as music director of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. A native of Costa Rica, he was a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and received the Carlos Miguel Prieto Conducting Fellowship.

Frank Gonzalez is a freelance audio engineer in the El Paso area and the school relationship manager for Sweetwater in New Mexico and West Texas.

Jennifer Gonzalez performs piccolo with the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra and is the head director at Bel Air MS in El Paso, TX.

Kimberlee Goodman is a flutist, educator, and executive director of the McConnell Arts Center in Columbus, OH. She performs with PANDemonium4, is principal flute of the Westerville Symphony, and has appeared with major regional orchestras. DMA, Ohio State Univ. Goodman is dedicated to advancing the arts through performance, teaching, leadership, and community engagement. She has served the NFA as Convention equipment manager and as assistant secretary and secretary of the Board of Directors.

Parv Gosai studies at Oberlin, pursuing a BM in woodwind, brass, and percussion pedagogy, and flute performance, with an integrative concentration in education studies. He has performed with the National Music Festival and Carnegie Hall's NYO2 (National Youth Orchestra 2). He was first prizewinner of the Constance G. Lane Collegiate Artist Competition (2025), Hunt Country Music Festival Solo Competition (2022), and Mid-South Flute Society Collegiate Competition (2026).

Miles Graber has performed with Frederica von Stade, Mimi Stillman, Martha Aarons, Gary Woodward, Amy Likar, Sasha Launer, and accompanied masterclasses of Midori, Yo-Yo Ma, James Galway, Jeanne Baxtresser, Paula Robison, and Leon Fleisher. He is associated with numerous orchestras and operas, including New Century Chamber Orchestra, Berkeley and Santa Rosa symphonies, and Oakland Lyric and San Jose operas. He studied at Juilliard with Anne Hull, Phyllis Kreuter, Hugh Aitken, and Louise Behrend.

Nave Graham (she/her) is assistant professor of flute at the Univ. of Central Arkansas. She holds a DMA from the Univ. of Cincinnati-CCM with a cognate in ethnomusicology. She serves on the NFA New Music Advisory and Pedagogy Committees.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Ben Graves was born in Tennessee and developed a unique style influenced by blues, rock, jazz, and world music. He resides in Portland, OR, where he performs regularly in jazz, chamber music, and Latin ensembles such as the Ben Graves Trio, Bossa PDX, Gordon Lee Quintet, Brazilian Guitar Duo, and Choro da Alegria.

Walter Gray is a cellist in the Seattle Symphony.

Lorin Green (she/her) is a flutist from Augusta, GA. She is the Community Relations Manager for the Seattle Symphony and executive director of Sound Salon, based in Seattle, WA. Green is pursuing a DMA in performance at the Univ. of Washington with Donna Shin.

Callie Green Brewer joined the Flute Specialists team in 2022, working in social media, marketing, and sales. She holds two degrees in flute performance and pedagogy from the Univ. of Southern Mississippi and teaches and performs on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Yoko Greeney, pianist, has served as accompanist for the Aspen and Bard Music Festivals, California State Univ. Summer Arts, and as a guest artist with the Alexander String Quartet. She performs with the Oregon Symphony, Oregon Ballet Theater, BodyVox, Portland Piano International, and 45th Parallel Universe. From Osaka, Japan, Greeney received a master's degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins Univ.

Jennifer Grim enjoys a multifaceted career as a performer, educator, and arts leader. She has performed with the Boston Chamber Music Society, Zephyros Winds, and the New York Chamber Soloists. Grim is associate professor at the Univ. of Miami Frost School of Music, artistic administrator at Festival Napa Valley, president of the board of directors of Chamber Music America, and president of the NFA.

Amanda Grimm joined the Oregon Symphony as principal viola in 2022. Previously, she served as principal viola of the Elgin Symphony, Canton Symphony, and Orchestra Iowa. Grimm has also appeared as guest principal with the Chicago Philharmonic, Illinois Philharmonic, and Chicago Opera Theater and performed regularly with the Lyric Opera of Chicago. In 2023, she served as principal viola of the Oregon Bach Festival.

Deena T. Grossman, composer, creates lyrical music that is rooted in the natural world and integrates a range of global stylistic influences. Her discography includes *Thrice Burned Forest*, *Wildfires and Waterways*, and *Becoming Durga*. She is composer-in-residence at Columbia Riverkeeper. deenatgrossman.com



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Eileen Grycki is professor of flute at the Univ. of Delaware School of Music and recipient of the University's Excellence in Teaching Award. She performs with the University's Tiger Lily Trio and Christiana Winds. Grycki is also a member of the Opera Philadelphia Orchestra, the Delaware Symphony, Brandywine Baroque, and the Serafin Ensemble. She is a graduate of Oberlin and New England Conservatory.

Paula Gudmundson is professor of flute at the Univ. of Minnesota–Duluth and received the 2022–23 McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians. Her work centers on collaboration, community engagement, and bringing voice to absent narratives in the arts.

paulagudmundson.com

Laura Gustavsen, director of the Long Island Flute Club Student Honors Flute Choir, has performed with the NFA Professional Flute Choir, Long Island Flute Club Professional Flute Choir, Metropolitan Flute Orchestra, International Flute Orchestra, and Island Symphony Orchestra. She has guest conducted for band festivals and serves on the NFA Low Flutes Committee. Gustavsen conducts a handbell choir, teaches privately, and loves crafting and playing with her five grandchildren.

Margaret Gwon attends North Allegheny Intermediate HS in Pittsburgh, PA. She began playing the flute in fourth grade with Kathy Blocki. Gwon is a member of the Three Rivers Young Peoples Wind Ensemble and has performed in the Seton Hill Honors Band, the Allegheny Valley Honors Band, and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 1 Honors Band. In her free time, she enjoys reading and baking brownies.

Noemi Gyori is a multi-award-winning soloist and recording artist who holds an MA from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, postgraduate degrees from the Univ. for Music and Performing Arts Vienna and Munich, and a PhD from the Royal Academy of Music, London. Gyori is a Miyazawa artist and is Artistic Team Member of the Tampere Flute Fest.

noemigyori.com

Joseph Hagedorn, first-prize winner in the Guitar Foundation of America solo competition in 1990, has performed throughout the U.S. and abroad as a soloist and chamber musician with concerts in Mexico, Canada, China, Germany, Serbia, and over 30 states. He has recorded eight CDs with the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet and the Shank-Hagedorn violin-guitar duo. Hagedorn holds degrees from Cornell College and the Univ. of Minnesota and serves on the music faculty of the Univ. of Wisconsin-River Falls.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Timothy Hagen is assistant professor of flute at Central Washington Univ. He is principal flute of the Dubuque and Missouri symphonies and has performed with orchestras throughout the country. His compositions have won awards from the NFA and the Flute New Music Consortium. timothyhagen.com

Margaret Haik (she/her) has taught flute, general music, band, and musical theater in schools and privately for over 30 years. She has served as the director of communications for a non-profit organization for the last 13 years. BME, Loyola Univ. New Orleans; MA, Washington State Univ.

Gordon Halligan is a flutist and conductor who regularly performs throughout the Los Angeles area and beyond. As co-founder of FluteSonic, he has been conducting the orchestra since 2014.

Nayoung Ham is a Korean flutist based in Seattle whose career includes solo, chamber, orchestral, and Baroque performance as well as teaching activities. She contributed to Nintendo's Mario vs. Donkey Kong remake (2024). Ham is adjunct lecturer in chamber music and music history at DigiPen Institute of Technology and performs regularly as a substitute flute with the Oregon Symphony. BM, Chungnam National Univ.; MM, Boston Conservatory; DMA, Arizona State Univ.

Larry Hammett has been coordinator of Guitar Studies at the Univ. of Oklahoma for over two decades. He has performed and given masterclasses in France, Mexico, Spain, Argentina, Greece, Serbia, Armenia, and throughout the U.S., and he is recognized for his expertise in classical, jazz, folk, and pop guitar. He has spent six summers collaborating with Flamenco guitarists in Spain. His compositions range from solo guitar, jazz, avant-garde, and music for modern dance.

Kristen Hammiel is a Senior Master Sergeant, superintendent, and flutist with the Heritage of America Band, performing in its Concert and Ceremonial Bands. She holds music degrees from Webster Univ. and James Madison Univ. and an MBA from McKendree Univ. A former Air National Guard squadron superintendent, Hammiel also served veterans through the VA as a massage therapist and physical therapist assistant.

Leanne Hampton serves as the director of Education and Community Programs for the Evansville Philharmonic. She also holds the position of Consortium Instructor at the Univ. of Evansville. She performs as principal flute of the Evansville Philharmonic and the Owensboro Symphony. Previously, she served on the faculties at the Univ. of Louisville and Kentucky Wesleyan College. BA, Univ. of Central Arkansas; MM and DMA, Univ. of Colorado.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Beilin Han is coordinator of the piano faculty at the Heifetz International Music Institute and artist collaborator at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice Univ.

Keith Hanlon is a flute technician and educational consultant at Flute Authority in Coralville, IA. A Pettry Piccolo Artist and Trevor James Low Flutes Artist, he is principal flute of the Ottumwa Symphony, flutist with the Derecho Wind Quintet, a member of io ensemble (historical flutes), and flute/piccolo with the Keystone Wind Ensemble. A former U.S. Army bandsman, Hanlon serves on the NFA Low Flutes Committee and is co-founder of The Flute Examiner. DMA, West Virginia Univ.

Mikaela Hannon is a flutist and music educator based in Tempe, AZ. She performs with Opuntia Winds, the Phoenix Symphony, and the Braase-Hannon Duo and has appeared at the NFA, International Double Reed Society, and International Clarinet Association Conventions and the Saarbarg International Music Festival. Hannon is secretary of the Arizona Flute Society and a faculty associate at Arizona State Univ. BM in flute performance and music education, Univ. of Idaho; MM and DMA, Arizona State Univ.

Amanda Harberg is a composer, pianist, and fan of all things flute-related who loves finding meaning through musical connection and community. Her flute works have been winners in the NFA Newly Published Music Competition ten times and are published by Theodore Presser and AH Productions. Harberg is associate professor at Berklee College of Music and teaches at Interlochen Arts Camp during the summer.

Sarah Jane Hargis is an internationally acclaimed performer and composer of classical, modern, and improvisational music and an Altus Artist. Her adventurous spirit allows her to take a full, rich, classical tone and combine it with a passionate exploration of electronic sound effects.

Felipe Harker is a graduate of the Gerald D. Hines School of Architecture at the Univ. of Houston. A former photographer for the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts, he has worked as a freelancer in the Houston metro. In his free time, he enjoys photography, design, and other digital arts. Furthermore, he is an avid runner and swimmer.

Ben Harris, originally from San Jose, CA, has been playing flute since the fourth grade. He received BM and MM in jazz studies from the Univ. of Oregon, studying with Idit Shner, Steve Owen, Joe Manis, Keith Brown, and flute with Jacqueline Arrington-Cordova. He won second place at the Carinthian International Jazz Award and was a semifinalist at the North American Saxophone Alliance jazz competition. He works as an educator and regular performer in Portland, OR.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Tammy Harris is recently retired and intends to spend her newly found free time on music. She received a BA in education (music) from Central Washington Univ. Harris performs with the Seattle Wind Symphony and the Highlined Flute Ensemble.

Aleksandr Haskin is winner of many international competitions, including Young Concert Artists in New York City. Born in Minsk, Belarus, he studied at Yale Univ. and earned a PhD from the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory. Haskin is a Burkart Artist and principal flute of the Qatar Philharmonic.

Victoria "Tori" Hauk is a freelance flutist and teacher in the Bay Area. She is on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College and Sonoma State Univ., and serves as third flute/piccolo with Symphony San Jose. Her teachers include Tim Day, Jeffrey Khaner, Renée Siebert, and Brian Luce.

Anne Haussmann is pursuing a BM in finance and flute performance at Southern Methodist Univ., where she studies with Kara Welch. She was a semifinalist in the Southern Methodist Univ. Concerto Competition and participated in the Eastman Summer Flute Camp. Haussmann performs with the Meadows Wind Ensemble and Meadows Symphony Orchestra.

Heather Havens is based in Austin, TX, where she is a member of the Central Texas Philharmonic. She also performs with the Syracuse Orchestra, Austin Symphony, and San Antonio Philharmonic. Recent appearances include Disney on Broadway's Beauty and the Beast tour, La La Land and Harry Potter in concert, and performances with Andrea Bocelli. Havens is a teaching assistant with Austin Soundwaves and teaches privately. Her teachers include Marianne Gedigian, Linda Toote, and Joanna Bassett.

The Hawai'i Flute Society was founded in 2017 to continue the legacy of Honolulu Symphony principal flute and NFA founding member Jean Harling. HFS provides educational and artistic opportunities throughout the year, including public masterclasses and concerts featuring the flute choir.

Regina Helcher Yost is second flute/piccolo of the Charleston Symphony, second flute/piccolo of the Savannah Philharmonic, core flutist with Chamber Music Charleston, adjunct professor of flute at Charleston Southern Univ., and a recent NFA Board member. reginahelcheryost.com

Aydan Hensley, NFA Operations Manager, is a flutist and arts administrator. BFA in flute performance, Carnegie Mellon Univ.; MM in arts administration, Roosevelt Univ.; MA in flute performance, DePaul Univ. Her teachers include Stefán Höskuldsson, Alberto Almarza, Jeanne Baxtresser, Mary Stolper, Jodi Taylor, and Hideko Amano.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Jill Heyboer, an advocate for contemporary music, is professor of music (flute) at Missouri State Univ. in Springfield and principal flute of the Springfield Symphony. During the summer, she teaches flute and chamber music at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan.

The Highline Flute Ensemble has performed in the Seattle area since 1998. Founded by Tammy Harris as part of her lifelong passion for music, she has championed the spirit of the ensemble over the years. Members may come and go, but the ensemble's mission has remained the same—to perform engaging and exquisite chamber music.

Alexandra Hine is a flutist, pianist, and organist based in Rochester, NY. She has the privilege of playing principal flute with several community orchestras and is a member of the Gold and Ivory Duo with colleague Annette Farrington. A strong advocate of education and community music, she maintains a studio of flute and piano students, is director of the Hochstein/Rochester Flute Association Flute Camp, and is a board member of the Rochester Flute Association. alexflute.com

Lyn Hoang is a flutist based in Dallas-Fort Worth, TX. BM in music performance, Texas Christian Univ., studying with Shauna Kay Thompson. She is a master's student and teaching assistant at East Texas A&M Univ., studying with Julee Kim Walker, and serves as principal flute of the wind ensemble. Hoang has been principal flute of the North Texas Symphony and plays piccolo with the Sherman Symphony.

Christine Hoerning, a Montreal-based clarinetist and director, performs with orchestras across New York State and Quebec. She founded Verisimo, blending chamber music with film, and collaborates on experimental projects and new music. An alumna of the State Univ. of New York at Potsdam Crane School of Music and McGill Univ., she is featured on albums by Jonathan Ostlund and leads digital commissions for solo clarinet works.

Emily Hofer is a music education graduate from South Dakota State Univ., where she studied with Elizabeth Robinson and served as principal flute of the Wind Symphony and drum major of the Pride of the Dakotas. Hofer was also first chair of the SD Intercollegiate Band and on the Dean's List all four years. Most recently, Hofer won the Concerto Aria Competition and performed as a guest artist with SDSU's Wind Symphony. This fall, she will join the South Dakota workforce as a band director.

Scott Holshouser, pianist, served as principal keyboard of the Houston Symphony for 35 years and has been a frequent soloist with the orchestra in repertoire from Mozart to Rhapsody in Blue. Holshouser and Aralee Dorough have recorded *Colours: Orchestral Transcriptions for Flute and Piano* and *The Ergonomic Flute*, both available on Spotify.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Bridget Hopewell practices medicine at Baylor Scott & White The Voice Center in Dallas, TX. She graduated from Yale Medical School, completed otolaryngology residency at the Univ. of Missouri-Columbia, and fulfilled a fellowship in laryngology and care of the professional voice at the Vanderbilt Voice Center. She cares for complex patients and elite vocal professionals, empowering them through education. She has authored many publications, abstracts, and research presentations.

Sadie Horton is a private flute instructor in west Fort Worth and founder and director of the Granbury Flute Choir in Granbury, TX. BM, Tarleton State Univ., where she studied with Carolyn Keyes.

Yuko Hoshi is a Tokyo-born flutist, composer, and arranger. She is also the founder and director of the Japan Jazz Flute Big Band (JJFBB) since 2015, with which she has performed in Japan and the U.S., and for which she has written arrangements. Hoshi is a graduate of the Musashino College of Music in Tokyo and has studied and performed with Ali Ryerson and Keith Underwood. With JJFBB members, she offers workshops to spread the enjoyment of playing jazz in the form of a jazz flute big band.

Ori Hosokai (she/her) attends Juanita HS in Kirkland, WA. She has played flute since 2018 and has studied with Elizabeth Jolly since 2020. Hosokai was selected for All-State in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2026 and served as principal flute of the 2025 All-Northwest Band. She is a two-time winner of her school's concerto competition (2024, 2025) and has performed with the Cascade Youth Symphony Orchestra since 2025 and the Juanita HS Wind Ensemble since 2023.

Jeanne Hourez (she/her) is a pianist recognized for her versatility as a soloist, chamber musician, researcher, and advocate for underrepresented voices in music. She has presented her research at national and international festivals and conferences. As a chamber musician and recording artist, Hourez enjoys exploring a wide range of chamber settings and frequently collaborates with emerging composers. She is assistant professor of music at Southwestern Univ.

Audrey (Rey) Howell is from Tacoma, WA. She is a broad endorsement music education student at Washington State Univ., where she studies with Sophia Tegart. Howell is secretary of the Crimson Flute studio and director of service for the Theta Delta chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. She is second flute of the Washington State Univ. Symphonic Wind Ensemble and is in the Cougar Marching Band.

Li-Tan Hsu is a Seattle-based collaborative pianist. BM and MM, Peabody Institute; DMA, Univ. of Maryland. She has taught at the Peabody Institute and Seattle Univ. and performs regularly with the Seattle Symphony.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Shu-Ching Hsu is a Taiwanese violist. She studied in Taiwan, France, and Canada and has performed with orchestras including the NSO and Chimei Philharmonic. Hsu teaches at National Taiwan Univ. of Arts and National Tsing Hua Univ. and founded the Taiwan Radiant Ensemble. In 2023, she performed at the International Viola Congress in Thailand and continues to collaborate on new chamber music with flutist Sabina Shu-Chun Chiang and harpist Chao-Pei.

Catherine Huang began her musical journey at age 5 and debuted as a soloist at age 8. She won first place in the 2025 California Association of Professional Music Teachers State Final Concerto Competition and the Culver City Symphony's Parness Concerto Competition junior division. Huang serves as principal flute of both the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association and Irvine Unified School District Honor Elementary Concert Bands.

Chen-Yu Huang is a Taiwanese-American harpist, teacher, arranger, and founder and executive director of Capitol Harp Ensemble. She was professor of harp at Michigan State Univ. from 2014-2023 and has presented masterclasses and served as a competition judge throughout the U.S. Huang received the 2010 Krannert Debut Artist Award and the 2010-2011 Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship. She performs with Formosa Trio and teaches harp in the Houston area.

Mary Hubbell, soprano, holds degrees from Boston College; Univ. of California, Santa Barbara; Royal Conservatoire The Hague; and City Univ. of New York Graduate Center. Her album of new art songs was released by PARMA. She has performed with the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, Composer's Voice Concert Series, and counter)induction, and has appeared at the Young Composers Meeting in Apeldoorn, Netherlands, and the Gaudeamus Festival in Amsterdam. She teaches at the Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst.

Virginia (Ginny) Hudson is assistant professor at the Univ. of Arkansas-Fort Smith. She is president and co-founder of the Arkansas Flute Society and performs with South Winds, the Mockingbird Quartet, and the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas. Hudson was featured as a soloist at the 2019 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and is a five-time winner of the NFA Professional Flute Choir Competition. BA, Arkansas Tech Univ.; MM, Longy School of Music; EdD, Southern Arkansas Univ.

Gillian Huff is a Staff Sergeant who earned a BM in music education from Univ. of Georgia and MM in trumpet performance from Northwestern Univ. She previously served as second trumpet of the Lansing Symphony and is now principal bugler of The Hellcats. Outside of work, Huff is principal trumpet of the Greater Newburgh Symphony, won second prize in the North International Music Competition, and was a finalist in Orchestra Noir's Medallion International Concerto Competition.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Amy Humbert has performed widely as a soloist and chamber musician. She is a member of the Civitasolis Quintet, which performs regularly at concerts and conferences throughout the U.S., including the International Clarinet Association Conference, Boston Conservatory, and Carnegie Hall. Civitasolis celebrated the release of its debut album in 2025. Humbert is assistant professor of clarinet at Lee Univ. and serves on the faculty of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

Teddie Hwang is the founder of "Teddie Talks Traverso," an online educational platform for historical flute playing. As of November 2025, she is the chair of the NFA Historical Flutes Committee and also a past winner of the NFA Baroque Flute Artist Competition. BM, Indiana Univ.; MM, Royal Conservatoire The Hague. teddiehwang.com

IF Flute Ensemble, founded in 2012, is composed of professors, graduates, and students from the dept. of music and performing arts at Inje Univ. in Busan-Gyeongnam, South Korea. The ensemble performs throughout Japan, China, Australia, and the U.S.; Shinjung Oh is music director. IF comes from the initials of Inje Flute, but also contains the English meaning of "if," which means, "if" we can impress even one audience, we will endlessly love, explore, and play music with passion and sincerity.

The International Flute Orchestra was founded in 1996 by Nancy C. Clew, music director emeritus, and is now led by Penny Zent and conducted by John Bailey. Its mission is to spread goodwill and good music around the world. The IFO has performed in 26 countries.

Nancy Ives, composer and cellist, enjoys a multifaceted career that includes more than 25 years as principal cello of the Oregon Symphony. She has composed a diverse body of work that reflects a sustained engagement with the natural world and cultural history. Her music has been performed across the U.S. and Europe, including concerts by the Oregon Symphony, Denver Philharmonic, Orchestre National de Bretagne, York Symphony Orchestra, and broadcasts on All Classical Radio.

Sandra Jackson is professor of clarinet at Eastern Michigan Univ. During the summer, she teaches clarinet and chamber music at Interlochen Arts Camp, where she frequently performs as a soloist and chamber musician.

Francis Jacquette (he/him) holds an MM from West Chester Univ. of Pennsylvania, where he served as principal flute of the Symphony Orchestra and won the Wind Symphony Concerto Competition. As a low flutes enthusiast, notably contrabass, he has performed with the Pennsylvania Flute Choir, Metropolitan Flute Choir, National LGBTQIA+ Flute Choir, NFA Professional Flute Choir, and International Low Flutes Festival Professional Flutes Choir. He is a member of the NFA Low Flutes Committee.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Elise James is a flute performance and music education double major at California State Univ., Long Beach. She studies with Jenni Olson and Diana Morgan. She plays with the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music Wind Symphony and is a third-year member of the University Flute Quartet. James is the flute coach at Marina HS and East Whittier MS. She is from Simi Valley, CA, and has worked at Cazadero Music Camp for the past three summers as a camp counselor.

Elizabeth Janzen is director of the School of Music at East Texas A&M Univ. and second flute of the Victoria Symphony (TX). A native of Newfoundland, Canada, she studied with Susan Hoeppner and Linda Chesis and was the first flute fellow in Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect. She is a Burkart Artist.

Linda Jenkins (she/her) is professor of flute at the Univ. of Texas at San Antonio and San Antonio College. She frequently performs with various ensembles across the state of Texas. BM, Bowling Green State Univ.; MM, Univ. of Oregon; DMA, Univ. of North Texas.

Christina Jennings is a flutist, professor of flute at the Univ. of Colorado Boulder, and winner of major competitions, including the Concert Artists Guild Competition and the NFA Young Artist Competition. She has appeared as concerto soloist with more than 50 orchestras. Jennings' students have pursued careers in orchestras, schools, nonprofit arts organizations, medicine, law, and climate reform.

Joanne Jiang is a high school student on Long Island. She started playing the flute at age 11 and studies with Laura Gustavsen. Jiang has performed with the SCMEA All-County Orchestra and, in middle school, with the CJMEA All-County Orchestra. She performs with Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and is principal flute at her high school.

Makana Jimbu, Innovative Percussion artist, is an award-winning marimba player from Japan and founding member of Duo 彩 AYA. Her debut Duo 彩 AYA album *Cycles* (Neuma Records) has earned two Gold Medals from the Global Music Awards. A dedicated educator, she holds degrees from Univ. of North Texas and Senzoku Gakuen College.

Donger Jin attends the China Conservatory of Music Affiliated Middle School, where she studies with Yizhen Ni. She won first prize at the ninth China Youth Music Competition–Hummingbird Music Award, held in cooperation with Germany's national youth music competition, Jugend musiziert, and was invited to perform at the German Embassy.

Leon Jin, bassoonist from Washington State, earned his DMA from Arizona State Univ., studying with Albie Micklich. He teaches at Glendale and Paradise Valley Community Colleges, performs as principal bassoon of ProMusica Arizona and the Scottsdale Philharmonic, and runs Jin Studios LLC, providing accessible recording services for young musicians.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Krista Jobson is associate professor of flute and associate dean of the College of Fine Arts at the Univ. of Texas Rio Grande Valley and co-principal flute of the Valley Symphony Orchestra. She has recorded with Duo Aldebaran, Cherry Street Duo, and Crossroads Quartet.

Beverly Johnson is founder and musical director of Fireflutes, a community flute choir in Hayward, CA. BA, MA, and California teaching credential in music and flute performance, California State Univ., East Bay, with additional study at San Francisco Conservatory, Univ. of Redlands, and Wright State Univ. She retired from teaching in the Hayward schools and Chabot College, and from the U.S. Air Force Band and California Air National Guard. Johnson conducts the East Bay Symphonic Band.

Matt Johnston lives in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and is the owner of ALRY Publications. Originally from Tampa, he studied bassoon, organ, flute, and clarinet at Florida State Univ. An avid origami artist, Johnston's modular origami sculptures have been featured in several books.

Rebecca Johnson (she/her) served as NFA president from 2022-24 and was program chair for the 2019 convention. In normal life, she is associate professor of flute at Eastern Illinois Univ., principal flute of the Heartland Festival Orchestra, and piccolo of Sinfonia da Camera. She has lived in central Illinois since 2006. Her mentors include Dianne Aboud, Angeleita Floyd, Kathleen Karr, Jonathan Keeble, and Peter Lloyd. DMA, Univ. of Illinois.
rebeccajohnsonflute.com

Rose V. Johnson, flutist, earned a BA in music from Northern Arizona Univ.; MMus, Univ. of Washington; MA in music industry, Azusa Pacific Univ. As a freelance performer, she is a member of Peregrine Rose Trio and Ladies' Quintessential Quintet. Johnson is a Wm. S. Haynes Artist, executive director of Collaborative Musicians' Project, board member of the Seattle Flute Society, and has a passion for advocacy and education for musicians.

Stephanie Johnson Riegle is principal flute of the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra and Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. She has a private flute studio in Pensacola, FL.

Elizabeth Jolly (she/her) is a flutist, teacher, and arranger based in Kirkland, WA. BM and MM in flute performance, Univ. of Redlands (California). Jolly is principal flute of the Seattle Philharmonic and director of the Seattle Flute Society Flute Choir. She has performed at past NFA Conventions as a member of the Jolly Jones Duo and the NFA Professional Flute Choir. Her arrangements are published by Jolly Music and distributed internationally by Theodore Presser.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Alice Jones serves as assistant dean of Community Engagement and Career Services at Juilliard, flute faculty member of Juilliard's Music Advancement Program, and adjunct professor of flute at Montclair State Univ. BA, Yale Univ.; MM and AD, State Univ. of New York at Purchase; DMA, City Univ. of New York Graduate Center. She serves as NFA treasurer and is a Haynes Artist.

Lucas Jones, a devout Christian, has performed as a soloist with the St. Augustine Orchestra, the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and the Univ. of North Florida Wind Symphony. He is the founder of FLUTES4KIDS, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and advancing flutists through educational and artistic opportunities. Jones is pursuing a degree in music performance at the Univ. of North Florida, where he studies with Gia Sastre.

Sydney Jones is a music education major at Iowa State Univ., studying with Sonja Giles. She is a member of the Symphonic Band, the ISU Flute Ensemble, and the ISU Cyclone Football 'Varsity' Marching Band. Previously, Jones was a member of the Des Moines Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Iowa All-State Band and studied with Hannah Weiss.

Zinnie Jones is the NFA Adult Flutist and Amateur Resources Committee chair.

Dana Joras is a flutist and composer living in the Kansas City metro. She studied at DePaul Univ. with Jennifer Clippert and Mary Stolper and completed a master's degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Joras' flute and piccolo performances have been awarded by the British Flute Society Young Artist Competition, Walfrid Kujala Piccolo Competition, and Jonathan Myall Piccolo Prize. Her award-winning compositions have been performed nationwide by many amateur and professional ensembles.

Shreyan Joshi attends Cuthbertson HS in Waxhaw, NC. He has participated in national ensembles and was a member of the 2025 NFA High School Flute Choir.

Gay Kahkonen is a composer and flutist from Pittsburgh, PA. She earned her degree in composition from Oberlin and studied flute with Wendy Webb Kumer and Bernard Z. Goldberg. Her award-winning compositions, ranging from the spirited to the sublime, are performed across the U.S. and abroad. Kahkonen has received commissions from many outstanding ensembles, and her music is published by ALRY. She performs with the City Flutes Choir and Flute Friends Quartet. gaykahkonen.com



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Renata Kambarova, from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, specializes in classical and contemporary music. Trained in Uzbekistan, Belgium, and the Netherlands, she holds multiple MA degrees and has premiered over 100 new works for solo flute and chamber music. Her personal practice blends body, movement, research, electronics, video, and improvisation. She is pursuing a PhD in artistic research on the application of Uzbek music traditions in contemporary composition.

Lynn Kane, a Eugene native, is an active chamber musician and pianist. She holds an MM from the Univ. of Oregon, a PhD in music history and accompanying, and a degree from Wheaton College. Her teachers include Victor Steinhardt, Gregory Mason, and Daniel Paul Horn. She performs widely and has collaborated with the Eugene Symphony, Eugene Opera, and local arts organizations. She teaches at Bushnell Univ.

Peony Kang attends Liberty HS in Eldersburg, MD, and has played flute for eight years. She is a member of the Maryland All-State Senior Band and served as first chair in the 2024 Maryland All-State Junior Band. Kang performed with the Mid-Atlantic Flute Choir in 2023.

Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao is assistant professor of professional practice and collaborative piano artist at Texas Christian Univ. She coordinates collaborative pianists at the Meadowmount School of Music and has served on the faculties of Columbus State Univ. and Mercer Univ. Kao has appeared at Carnegie Weill Hall and can be heard with cellist Bion Tsang on The Blue Rock Sessions (2017). BM and MA, National Taiwan Normal Univ.; MM, Univ. of Texas at Austin; DMA, Univ. of Colorado Boulder.

Helen Kao (she/her) is pursuing a BM in flute performance at New York Univ., where she studies with Soo-Kyung Park. She previously studied with Ai Goldsmith in Saratoga, CA, and has played for renowned flutists including Jasmine Choi and Robert Stallman. She is co-founder of the West Village Chamber Collective, a New York-based female flute quartet. Kao has been principal flute of the New York Univ. Orchestra and Wind Symphony and has proudly performed at Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden.

Kelly Mem Craig-Kapusuzoglu is from Louisville, KY, where she attended the Univ. of Louisville School of Music, earning a BM and an MAT and later an additional Orff-Schulwerk graduate certificate from the Univ. of Kentucky. She is a certified music teacher, a published author, and performs with the Marmara Flute Orchestra. She teaches IGCSE Music, IB DP Music, and KS3 Music at the British International Secondary School in Istanbul, Türkiye.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Mary Karen Clardy, Regents Professor at the Univ. of North Texas, appears as a soloist and chamber artist across the U.S., Europe, South America, and Asia. A renowned teacher, she presents masterclasses worldwide, and her students are consistent winners of national and international competitions. Her recordings include *Art of the Piccolo*, *Sonatas and Sonatinas*, *The Solo Flute: Past to Present*, and *After Syrinx*. She is also the author of ten widely used books, now in multiple reprints.

Birgit Karoh is a flute educator at music schools and professor of music at a Gymnasium (an academic secondary school) in Austria. She earned a PhD in flute performance at New Bulgarian Univ., studying with Luisa Sello, with a focus on contemporary flute music. Karoh published a flute school method book with Doblinger (Vienna), presents teacher trainings, masterclasses, and is a mental training coach for musicians. Her performances have taken her to the U.S., China, and Europe.

Denis Karp is a freelance flutist who records frequently with the Washington Winds and performs with the Gallery Winds and Charm City Winds woodwind quintets. He is co-founder and co-director of the Gallery Winds Chamber Music Summer Camp and teaches privately, at Prince George's Community College, and through the Baltimore School for the Arts TWIGS program. Karp directs the Flute 29 Flute Choir and serves on the NFA Low Flutes Committee.

Keilor Kastella was born in New York and raised in Michigan. He studied piano and composition at Interlochen and earned degrees from the Univ. of Michigan and Louisiana State Univ. He co-founded the Red Stick Trio and has performed internationally, including in Costa Rica and Portugal. Since 2020, he has been a collaborative pianist at the State Univ. of New York at Potsdam Crane School of Music. His interests include Bach, Chopin, new music, and works by underrepresented composers.

Nandin Kathleen Baker is a flutist, composer, and meditative music guide whose work bridges classical performance and holistic healing. Trained by world masters, she has performed with leading orchestras, recorded on renowned labels, and collaborated with global artists. A yoga and healing arts practitioner, she now creates immersive experiences where music, meditation, and movement invite presence, connection, and transformation. nandinmusic.com

Laura Kaufman is principal flute of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, teaches at George Mason Univ., and performs in the wind quintet District5. She won the 2012 NFA Young Artist Competition, coaches students in competitions and performance anxiety, and holds degrees from Eastman, the Colburn School, and the Univ. of Maryland.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Alaina Kawleski is a flute performance major at the Univ. of Wisconsin–Stevens Point. She discovered her interest in music through high school musical theater and pit orchestra performance. She has performed in productions including *Honk!*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *The Magic Flute*. She aims to pursue a career performing flute, clarinet, and saxophone in musical theater and opera pit orchestras, with a particular interest in piccolo performance.

Mary Kay Fink has been piccoloist with the Cleveland Orchestra since 1990. She has served on the faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music, Baldwin-Wallace College, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, and teaches at the Kent Blossom Music Festival. She won the 1986 NFA Young Artist Competition, is a former NFA Board member, and has performed at numerous conventions, often premiering new works. BM, Oberlin; MM, Juilliard.

Jonathan Keeble, recipient of the 2023 NFA Distinguished Service Award, is a member of the award-winning *Prairie Winds*, the *Aletheia Duo*, and he is a distinguished full professor at the Univ. of Illinois. In addition to performances as principal flute of *Sinfonia da Camera*, he has recently performed in venues throughout North America, Australia, South America, and Asia. His marvelous students populate orchestras, college faculties, and music programs throughout the world.

Minnie Keene is a student at Lawrence Univ., completing a double degree in flute performance and psychology. Her passion lies at the intersection of music and mental health, where she plans to obtain both a master's in mental health counseling and a license in music therapy.

Leanna Keith (she/they) is a freelance flutist, artist, improviser, and composer in San Diego. They delight in creating sound experiences that make audiences laugh, cry, and say, “I didn’t know the flute could do that!” Their work focuses on timbre-shifting, the mixed-race experience, queer theory, and breaking genre boundaries. They are dedicated to performing music by living composers and advocate for music as social activism.

Steven Keith is a flutist and former instructor of flute at Shorter Univ. and artist affiliate of flute at Berry College, both in Rome, GA. He is principal flute of the Metro Atlanta Philharmonic and has performed with *Orchestra Noir*. BM, Jacksonville State Univ.; MM, Georgia State Univ. His DMA dissertation at the Univ. of Alabama, *From the Shadows: Flute Music by Living Black Composers*, highlights works by Valerie Coleman, Adolphus Hailstork, Allison Loggins-Hull, and Brian Raphael Nabors.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Luke Kelley attends Stevenson HS in Illinois. Before moving there from Utah, he performed in masterclasses, competitions, and solo recitals, including Utah Baroque Ensemble Competition finalist, Utah Flute Association competitions, Utah Youth Symphony, Utah All-State Orchestra, and Utah Valley Symphony substitute. In Illinois, he has performed with the CYSO Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Flute Club events, and was second prize winner in the Wisconsin Flute Festival Young Artist Competition.

Bryan Kennard, composer and flutist, writes works for jazz and classical ensembles. He is a performer in Ohio and serves as director of BOP STOP. He has taught courses in jazz, composition, and arranging at Youngstown State Univ. and the Univ. of Miami. He studied jazz composition and arranging with Gary Lindsay, Stephen Guerra, John Daversa, John Mills, and Dave Morgan. BM, Mercyhurst Univ.; MM, Youngstown State Univ.; MM, Univ. of Texas at Austin; DMA, Univ. of Miami. bryankennard.com

Jennifer Kennard has performed with the St. Paul Chamber and Minnesota Orchestra. She is Concordia Univ. Saint Paul faculty, NFA Special Publications Committee chair, Music by Black Composers repertoire specialist, and she focuses on teaching, writing, and parenting. BM in education and performance, State Univ. of New York at Potsdam Crane School of Music; DMA, Michigan State Univ.

Kelariz Keshavarz, assistant professor of flute at the Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a performer, scholar, and advocate of cross-cultural music. Founder of the Iranian New Waves anthology, she has commissioned over 50 works for flute by contemporary Iranian composers.

Daniel Kessner has written more than 180 works in all genres, receiving over 1000 performances worldwide; nearly all are published by Universal Edition in Vienna. He is professor emeritus at California State Univ., Northridge, where he taught from 1970 until his retirement in 2006. He maintains a career as a composer, conductor, and flutist. universaledition.com/en/Contacts/Daniel-Kessner/

Carolyn Keyes is assistant professor of flute at Tarleton State Univ. and a member of FlutAria! She previously taught flute at Cameron Univ. BM, Bowling Green State Univ.; MM, Univ. of North Texas; DMA, Univ. of Colorado Boulder.

Kaleem Kheshgi is a professional flutist, multi-instrumentalist, and university administrator in Pittsburgh, PA. BA in music, Goshen College.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Beomjae Kim [pronunciation: buhm-jae] is a laureate of Astral Artists and an alumnus of Ensemble Connect. He is a member of The New York Pops, principal flute of the American Composers Orchestra, and assistant professor of music (flute) at Austin Peay State Univ. in Clarksville, TN.

BoMi Kim, originally from Korea, studied at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Rostock in Germany, earning a diplom degree in music. She relocated to Oregon three years ago and is a founding member of the Bethany Trio. She performs in chamber and collaborative projects throughout the region.

Jen Kim is a Portland-area flutist and teacher. A Univ. of Oregon School of Music and Dance alumna, she has performed professionally since 2007 and maintains a private studio for flute, piano, and voice. With a passion for performance, music education, music history, and arts administration, Kim enjoys helping bring music and the arts to her community.

Saeyeong Kim is pursuing a DMA in flute performance at New England Conservatory with Cynthia Meyers. BM, Indiana Univ. (Robertello); MM, Northwestern Univ. (Thome). She attended the Music Academy of the West, where she was a finalist in the Duo Competition; the National Orchestral Institute; and the Trentino Music Festival, where she won first prize in the Young Artist Solo Competition. Kim has served as principal flute of the Peoria Symphony and as a substitute with the Atlantic Symphony.

Sooyun Kim has appeared as soloist with the Seoul Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio Symphony, Munich Philharmonic, and Boston Pops. Recitals include the Louvre, Kennedy Center, and Liszt Hall. A Georg Solti Career Grant and ARD prize winner, she is an artist member of Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and assistant professor of flute at the Univ. of Cincinnati-CCM. She plays a custom 18K gold Verne Q. Powell flute.

Soyeon Kim (she/her) is a collaborative pianist and chamber musician. She has performed in the U.S., Europe, and Korea at venues including Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Konzerthaus Berlin, Gasteig Munich, and the Musikverein Vienna. She holds degrees from Seoul National Univ. and Manhattan School of Music. She is on the faculty of Vanderbilt Univ. Blair School of Music and previously taught at Montclair State Univ.

Zoe Kim (she/her) attends Mount Hebron HS in Ellicott City, MD. She studies with Denis Karp and has performed with the Peabody Wind Orchestra, Howard County Youth Orchestra, Maryland Junior All-State Band, and Mid-Atlantic High School Flute Choir.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Julee Kim Walker is professor of practice in flute at the Univ. of Houston, and artistic director of the Texas Summer Flute Symposium. BM, Univ. of Texas at Austin; MM, San Francisco Conservatory; DMA, Univ. of North Texas.

Brittany Kirschner is a dancer, choreographer, and educator located in the Houston area. A graduate of the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts at the Univ. of Houston, she completed her training with Teresa Chapman with a BA in Dance. Kirschner works as a freelancer and assists in several dance studios in the Houston area.

Treese Kjeldsen is principal flute of the Woodland Park Wind Symphony, directs High Alt!Tooters Flute Ensemble and GadzUKES! Ukulele Jam, and plays guitar with SilverWood Duo. She previously directed Pikes Peak Flute Choir, was the founder of Rose City Flute Choir, and has performed in the NFA Professional Flute Choir several times. A retired band director, Kjeldsen continues to teach in her private music studio, as she has since 1975.

Suyeon Ko is assistant professor of flute at Kent State Univ. and second flute/piccolo of the Des Moines Opera. A dedicated performer and educator, she champions contemporary and underrepresented composers, especially from East Asia. Originally from South Korea, she holds degrees from Indiana Univ., Univ. of North Texas, and Jeju National Univ. suyeonkoflute.com

Alice Kogan Weinreb was second flute of the National Symphony Orchestra for 43 years. She is a founder of the Capitol Woodwind Quintet, Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, and performer in the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra. Her first teachers were Lois Schaefer and James Pappoutsakis. She studied with Fernand Caratgé at the École Normale de Musique on a Fulbright Fellowship and won the premier prix. BA, Brandeis Univ.; MA, American Univ.

Stephanie Kolokotroni Jones performs regularly in Seattle, is one-half of the Jolly Jones Duo, and co-founder of Goldfinch Flutes. BA in music education and BA in flute/piccolo performance, Central Washington Univ.; MM in flute/piccolo performance, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara; MBA, Pepperdine Univ. She has taught for 28 years.

Alicia Kosack teaches at York College of Pennsylvania and YCPrep. She won first place in the 2025 NFA Low Flute Artist Competition, placed third in the 2025 American Prize in Instrumental Performance, and was a winner of the 2023 NFA Convention Performers Competition. A past vice president of the Flute Society of Washington and former Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention program chair, she now serves on the NFA Low Flutes Committee. DMA, Univ. of Maryland.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Amrutha Koteeswaran is an American-Indian flutist and DMA student at the Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro, studying with Erika Boysen. She is a freelance musician and teacher, maintains a virtual studio, and serves as events coordinator for Through the Staff, a nonprofit supporting music education, and as NFA Exhibitors Concert & Showcase coordinator. BM, Baylor Univ.; MM, Univ. of Texas at Austin. Koteeswaran advocates for diversifying flute repertoire and music education.

Emily Kral attends Ward Melville HS. She served as middle school band director and first chair flute from 7th through 9th grade and performs in her high school wind ensemble. Kral is a Tri-M Music Honor Society member, was first chair flute in the SCMEA All-County Orchestra, and earned perfect NYSSMA Level 6 scores on flute, piccolo, and piano. She will perform piccolo in the SCMEA All-County Band and is a past participant in the Long Island Flute Club Honors and NFA High School Flute Choirs.

Christina Kraye is the founder and director of the Micro Brew Crew. As a freelance flutist and private teacher in the Colorado Springs area, she also performs with Little London Winds and the Chamber Music Society of Greater Denver.

Karissa Krenz, NFA Publications Director, is a NYC-based creative professional. She has worked with the New York Philharmonic, Lincoln Center, the Actors Fund, WQXR/New York Public Radio, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Central Park Conservancy, Parsons School of Design at the New School, and others.

Kun Wei Chung won fourth prize at the 2023 Osaka International Music Competition (first-third prizes not awarded) and reached the final round of the 2026 Biwako Flute Competition. He studied with Liao Yiting, Li Yonghan, and Anders Norell; served as principal flute of the Wind Band of Taipei Fuhsing Private School and the Taipei Philharmonic Youth Ensemble; and won top prizes at the Osaka (2020, 2021), Taiwan/Hong Kong (2022), MEDICI, King's Peak, and AMADEUS International Music Competitions.

Nicole Laborie is a special education teacher, flute teacher, and performer based in Butler, PA. Laborie enjoys combining her passions for education, flute, and music through bringing music to her classroom, flute students, and the community. MM, Penn State Univ.

Laguna Flutes, founded in 2013 under the direction of Cynthia Ellis, has grown from an ensemble of six to over 20 flutists. In 2021, they performed at the NFA Convention and Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention, both held virtually, and in 2023, they performed at the NFA Convention in Phoenix. lagunaflutes.com



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Darbi Lamrani is a flutist, researcher, and college professor from southwest Florida. She studied flute at the Univ. of Florida and Baylor Univ. and is a PhD candidate in music at the Univ. of South Florida. Her research focuses on the music of the Imazighen (Indigenous peoples of North Africa), global music-making, and multi-philosophical approaches to music education. Lamrani performs with the Naples Players Orchestra and teaches at Florida SouthWestern State College.

Elizabeth Lantz, associate professor of practice at Virginia Tech and a Yamaha Performing Artist, champions contemporary flute performance and interdisciplinary collaborations. She commissions and premieres new works, including Valerie Coleman's *Wish Sonatine*, and has performed nationally and internationally at major festivals and conferences, with recent appearances at the International Computer Music Conference and College Music Society International Conference.

Karen Large is flute professor at Florida State Univ. and principal flute of the Tallahassee Symphony. She also performs with the Aglow Trio, Florida Flute Orchestra, and a flute duo with Mary Matthews. Her albums have been released on Blue Griffin Records and Radium Recordings. karenlarge.com

Anke Lauwers won first prize in the 2010 NFA Piccolo Artist Competition. She performs with several European orchestras, including the Symphony Orchestra of Flanders. Lauwers is assistant professor of piccolo at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp in Belgium.

Zara Lawler combines music, dance, and theater. She staged Sciarrino's *Il Cerchio Tagliato dei Suoni* for 104 flutes at the Guggenheim and, in 2021, created a danced Bach B Minor Suite for the NFA. Lawler studied at Juilliard with Carol Wincenc and Sam Baron and is a trained Suzuki teacher. zaralawler.com

Joanne Lazzaro is a world-flutist performer, teacher, recording artist, and producer based in Los Angeles, CA. As a classically trained orchestral flutist, Lazzaro has played all over the U.S., including Los Angeles (Disney Hall), New York (Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center), Chicago (Symphony Center), as well as around the world.

Cassie Lear is principal flute of the Great Falls Symphony in Montana and performs with regional orchestras throughout the Pacific Northwest. She teaches flute at Pierce College, has taught across the U.S., India, and Antigua, and serves as vice president of the Seattle Flute Society. Lear holds performance degrees from the Univ. of Oregon and Univ. of North Texas. Her performances have aired on NPR Live Sessions, and her arrangements are published by ALRY. cassielear.com



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Ashleigh Leas, Musician 1st Class with the U.S. Navy Band, joined the band in 2016 as a flute and piccolo instrumentalist with the Concert/Ceremonial Band and performs with the Navy Band Harp/Flute Duo. She previously served as principal flute of the West Texas Symphony, Missouri Symphony, and West Texas Winds, and as piccolo/third flute with the Amarillo Symphony. Leas has also performed with the Orlando, San Antonio, Mid-Atlantic, and Richmond symphonies. BM, Duquesne Univ.; MM, Rice Univ.

Alyson Lee attends Bergen County Academies in New Jersey and studies with Bart Feller at the Juilliard Pre-College. She began playing flute at age 11 and has since earned top prizes in the Philadelphia International Music Festival Concerto Competition, Camerata Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition, New York Artists International Competition, Golden Classical Music Awards International Competition, New Jersey Flute Fair Competition, and Prima Volta Music Competition.

Christopher Lee, Altus Flutes Artist, is a laureate of the AGIMUS International Competition and a Canada Council for the Arts award recipient. He served as principal flute of the Toronto Philharmonia from 1991 to 2013 and has appeared as a soloist in Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Italy, Panama, Peru, and Brazil. Lee plays on an Altus AL flute.

Eileen Lee attends Palo Alto HS. Her teachers are Isabelle Chapuis and Yubeen Kim. She plays flute and piccolo in her school band and was selected for the California All-State Honor Band. Lee is a prizewinner in international competitions, including the Bellagrande International, KAMSA, Charleston International, Grand Prize Virtuoso Berlin, ENKOR, IGMCMC, USIMC, and alternate in the U.S. Navy Band Young Artist Solo Competition. She has performed at Carnegie Hall and the Junior Bach Festival.

Ethan Lee (he/him) is an undergraduate flutist from Los Angeles pursuing a degree in music performance at California State University, Long Beach, where he studies with Jenni Olson. He serves as piccoloist with the Bob Cole Conservatory Wind Symphony and Symphony Orchestra. He recently won the Universtiy Concerto Competition and performed Charles Griffes' Poem with the Symphony Orchestra. Ethan has previously studied with Cheryl Loofbourrow.

Jiyoung Lee is a flutist and has been a prizewinner of the World Melodia and American Protégé International Competitions. She has performed at Carnegie Hall, the National Flute Congress in Japan, and has served as principal flute of the Korea Philharmonic Orchestra. Lee has been invited as a resident artist with the ASU Design and Arts Corps and has performed with many orchestras across the United States.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Josephine Lee, a Korean-American flutist based in La Crescenta, CA., aims to be a holistic musician, eager to partipate in the music-making process whether it's on or beyond the stage. She holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory with Alexa Still, and a MM from Carnegie Mellon with Lorna McGhee. A winner of the NFA's Masterclass Performers Competition, she also serves as assistant music librarian of the LA Opera, and has previously held professional appointments at Interlochen and Aspen.

Matthew Lee is a flutist and conductor from New Zealand. Based in Boston, MA, he has studied with Linda Toote, Ann Bobb, Diana Morgan, Sharon Sparrow, and Anthony Ferner. Matthew has earned degrees from the University of Canterbury and Boston University.

Stephen Lee is a Hong Kong-born flutist raised in Seattle. Lee has a BA in flute performance from the Univ. of Washington, where he studied with Felix Skowronek. Since returning to Hong Kong in 2007, he has frequently collaborated with the City Chamber and Gustav Mahler Orchestras. Lee co-founded Hong Kong Chamber Flutes and Project M0Ch3, promoting flute choir and contemporary music.

Jane Lenoir (she/her) is founder and director of the Berkeley Choro Ensemble and Berkeley Festival of Choro. Her recordings include *The View from here* with Berkeley Choro (2018) and *Jane Lenior Plays Penezzi* (2017). Jane performs traverso, Irish flute, and jazz flute. BM, Oberlin. janelenoir.com

Francesca Leo DeLouis is a flutist, arts administrator, educator, and founder of playingwithoutpain.com. As a certified meditation instructor and chair of the NFA Performance Health Care Committee, she is committed to performane health advocacy. DeLouis has presented her research on the prevalence of performance-related injury and the stress connection in collegiate musicians internationally. Francesca holds a BM and MBA from Bowling Green State Univ. and a MM from the Manhattan School of Music.

Faith Leonard is pursuing a BA in flute performane at Iowa State University where she studies with Sonja Giles. This is her first year participating in the NFA Collegiate Flute Choir.

Brandon LePage is Assistant Professor of Flute at Univ. of Wisconsin-Whitewater and is principal flute of both the Flint Symphony and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. In 2013, he founded the Chamber Artists of Southeast Michigan, bringing live concerts to his hometown of Wyandotte, and started a scholarship for teens to help with summer studies, instrument repairs, and other related music costs. BM, Michigan State Univ.; MM, San Francisco Conservatory; and a DMA from the Univ. of Michigan.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Gilbert Levy plays an array of world drums and stringed instruments. Husband and musical partner of Suzanne Teng, he is the primary engineer on their multiple award-winning albums and is co-leader of their ensemble, Mystic Journey. mysticjourney.net

Abigail Lewis attends Deer Creek High School. In the NFA High School Flute Choir, Abigail will be playing bass flute, which has quickly become a passion of hers.

Shannon Lewis (she/her) is a flutist and artist based in London, Canada. An advocate for contemporary music, she explores ways to push the boundaries of the flute and commits to bringing exciting repertoire to audiences while making music accessible. She has an interest in combining music with visuals, inspiring her multimedia project, Colour, which consists of improvisational compositions with visuals to create works for flute and electronics based on her experience with synesthesia.

Celena Li (she/her) attends Castro Valley HS in California. She began playing flute at age 8. She has been a member of the East Bay Youth Orchestra for five years and participates in her school ensembles. Celena plays piano as a secondary instrument and enjoys composing for flute and piano, as well as music in other genres. Li is a student of Victoria Hauk.

Sophie Li attends Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology. She won first place in the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention Student Honors Junior Competition and second place in the 2025 American Masters Music Awards Classical Festival. Li has performed with the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras, Maryland Youth Classical Orchestras, and the Mid-Atlantic High School Flute Choir. She studies flute with Beth Bentley.

Terry Li studies with Molly Barth at Vanderbilt University. As principal flute of the Vanderbilt Wind Symphony and Orchestra, he has premiered many works by student composers and has recorded music for several student films. Li also studies Baroque flute and flute pedagogy with Jessica Dunnavant. In his free time, he loves to explore art through other media such as photography and film.

Yishan Li is pursuing a DMA in Flute Performance and Literature at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, studying with Dr. Jonathan Keeble. Li earned her MM from UIUC and her BM from Oberlin with Alexa Still. Yishan has performed at Carnegie Hall as principal flute of the Oberlin Orchestra and has attended the PRISMA and Eastern Music festivals.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Erin Liao attends Berkeley HS. She has played flute for nine years, was a winner of the 2023 Junior Bach Festival, and was a member of the Berkeley Youth Orchestra. In addition to classical flute, Liao is a member of the top ensemble in Berkeley High's world-renowned jazz program. She has received Outstanding Musicianship awards at the Folsom and Santa Cruz Jazz Festivals. Liao has performed in masterclasses for Joshua Redman, Elena Pinderhughes, and Marley Eder.

Lawrence Liggins is the band director at Arts HS in Newark, N.J. BM in music education, Mason Gross School of the Arts. Liggins is also artistic director of the Band Together program, designed for children ages 9-18, at New Jersey Performing Arts Center. He is a member of the NFA Low Flutes Committee and a member of UpTown Flutes. He credits a host of flute instructors for providing a foundation for his enjoyment of classical and jazz music.

Amy Likar is a flutist with the Oakland Symphony and a freelance musician with several other groups. She directs the training program for the Association for Body Mapping Education and champions musicians' health and wellness. She is an AmSAT Certified Alexander Technique Teacher. Her passion is helping people to get out of their own way to create meaningful, compelling performances. She is a Powell Flutes Performing Artist. amylikar.com

Ethan Lin-Schwartz, prize winner of the 2021 Puerto Rico International Collaborative Competition and 2019 Donald Peck International Flute Competition. He brings over 20 years of experience in the flute industry, starting as a flute technician in 2005 and joining Burkart in 2013, developing sales and distribution worldwide. Principal flute of Symphony Pro Musica in Hudson, MA, he has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, and teaches flutists nationwide.

Henry Linárez is a Venezuelan cuatro musician. He began performing at age three and debuted as a singer at four. Trained in piano and Venezuelan music traditions, he developed a strong focus on the cuatro and folkloric rhythms. He has toured extensively across the Americas, Europe, and the Caribbean, performing and teaching. Linárez has collaborated with major Latin artists and ensembles, becoming a respected international performer of Venezuelan folk music.

Mary Lindsey Bailey is Associate Professor of Oboe at the Univ. of Alabama and principal oboe of the Tuscaloosa Symphony. She has held principal positions with the Shenzhen and Grand Junction symphonies and performed across Europe, Asia, and South America. A frequent presenter at the International Double Reed Society and other conferences, she holds degrees from the Univ. of South Carolina and Univ. of Cincinnati. Her teachers include Mark Ostoich, Rebecca Schalk Nagel, and Tess Miller.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Alicia “Lish” Lindsey (she/her) enjoys a career in New York City as an orchestral, chamber, wind symphony, and Gagaku performer and educator. She is president of the New York Flute Club, serves on the boards of the New Jersey Flute Society and the Flute Society of Greater Philadelphia, and a music professor at Columbia Univ. and New York City College of Technology. lishlindsey.com IG: @piccolish

Miao Liu has appeared as a featured soloist with ensembles such as the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra and the Arizona Contemporary Ensemble. She recently began her role as third flute/piccolo with the Billings Symphony Orchestra and also performs as guest principal flute of the Olympia Symphony. As an educator, she co-founded Dolce Arts Studio in Seattle and curates a biannual chamber music series with her colleagues for the local community.

Michael Liu, pianist with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra USA, believes that music and medicine share numerous connections. As a physician specializing in family medicine, Liu moves seamlessly between the stage and clinical practice. In addition to his role as orchestra pianist, he performs regularly in chamber music concerts in Vancouver and Portland with a variety of ensembles.

Liu Xihe studies with Ni Yizhen at the China Conservatory of Music Affiliated Middle School. She was a finalist at the 27th Biwako International Flute Competition in Japan and later won fourth prize at the 28th Biwako International Flute Competition. She received second prize (with first prize not awarded) at the 12th Severino Gazzelloni International Flute Competition, along with the Glauco Cambursano Special Prize. She is principal flute of the China Youth Philharmonic Orchestra.

Xinyi Liu is a DMA student at the Univ. of Washington, studying with Donna Shin. She serves as a teaching assistant and principal flute of the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. BM, China Conservatory of Music (Zhaorong Chen); MM, Manhattan School of Music (Chesis). She performs as a solo, chamber, and orchestral musician and has received international competition awards. She has participated in masterclasses with more than 30 flutists.

Diane Longnecker is Assistant Professor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at Baylor University. MS in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Univ. of Texas at Dallas; PhD in Health Sciences, Texas Woman’s University. Her research focuses primarily on swallowing and swallowing disorders in adults. Longnecker is also a certified speech-language pathologist and has worked with adults with dysphagia in a variety of medical settings since 2008.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

The Los Angeles Flute Choir is an inclusive community ensemble committed to fostering artistry, connection, and support among adult flutists of all levels. Its members represent the diversity of the local flute community, including professionals, students, and devoted lifelong players.

The Los Angeles Flute Orchestra is a professional ensemble of Los Angeles-based flutists founded in 1999. The group is committed to playing original music in a wide variety of styles ranging from classical to contemporary, as well as jazz, world, folk, and rock.
losangelesfluteorchestra.com

Abby Losos is a student at Texas Christian Univ. pursuing a DMA in flute performance with Shauna Thompson. BM, music education and flute performance, Texas Tech Univ. (Garner Santa); MM, flute performance, Texas Christian Univ. In 2025, Losos was chosen as a semifinalist in the Colorado Flute Association Young Artist Competition. She has enjoyed performing in a wide range of musical settings and in masterclasses with Paul Edmond-Davis, Alexa Still, and Marina Piccinni.

Phyllis Avidan Louke, Altus Artist, is principal flute of the Tilikum Chamber Orchestra, conducts the Rose City Flute Choir, teaches privately, and is in demand as a flute clinician. A composer with over 100 publications, she has also co-authored a pedagogy series with Patricia George. phyllislouke.com

Sam Louke is a trombonist and retired chemical engineer. He performs with the Oregon Symphonic Band, where he serves as board president, and is vice president of the board of Make You Think Inc. Married to flutist Phyllis Avidan Louke, he has long volunteered at NFA conventions and is the 2026 NFA Local Volunteer Coordinator. He also volunteers with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, OMSI Science Pubs, and Via Productions' Science on Tap.

The Low Flute Divas have performed at the International Low Flutes Festival in Washington D.C. and the 2025 NFA Convention as well as concerts throughout the Los Angeles area.

The Lower Michigan Low Flute Ensemble was founded by Deborah Rebeck Ash for the 2024 International Low Flute Festival. Consisting of elite alto, bass, and contrabass flutists with lower Michigan connections, the ensemble commissions new works and has performed in Michigan, Virginia, Texas, Georgia, and Illinois.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Brian Luce is Professor of Flute and Associate Director of the Univ. of Arizona School of Music and President of the Native Faculty Association. He is a Yamaha Performing Artist and performs and teaches internationally. His recordings are heard on the New World, Naxos, Albany, Toccata Classics, Citadel, and Gault labels.

Amelia Lukas is a Powell Flutes Artist. Her recent engagements include solo appearances for Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Japanese Garden, United for Ukraine, Siletz Bay Music Festival, Fear No Music, Makrokosmos Project, Kenny Endo Ensemble, and Astoria Music Festival. Lukas holds degrees from the Royal Academy of Music in London and Manhattan School of Music.

Stephanie Lupo is the author of *The Piccolo Intonation Book*, featuring 39 new piccolo etudes, an extensive fingering chart, and detailed tuning information. She is flute professor at Olivet Nazarene Univ. and principal flute of the Kankakee Valley Symphony and Woodwind Quintet. Her thesis won the 2022 NFA Graduate Research Competition. She serves on the NFA Piccolo and Performance Health Care Committees and the Association for Body Mapping Education board. stephanielupo.com

Michael Lynn is professor of Baroque flute at Oberlin Conservatory.

Tychique Mabanza was born in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. She holds a degree in transverse flute from the National Institute of the Arts (INA). She is a solo flutist with the INA National Orchestra and a transverse flute teacher.

Annabel MacDonald, based in Austin, TX, is dedicated to collaborative performance, accessible music education, and research focused on music in the U.S. Armenian diaspora. She serves as Adjunct Professor of Flute at Texas A&M-Kingsville and is the flutist with the Cover to Cover Quintet and SoundMap Ensemble.

Ryan MacDonald is a flutist and multi-instrumentalist. Ryan recently completed his DMA in Flute Performance at the Univ. of Iowa and holds BA's in physics and music from the Univ. of Maine and a MM, flute performance, Univ. of Minnesota. He teaches at Central College, conducts the Iowa City Flute Choir, served in the U.S. Army as a bandsman, toured the U.S. with Fiddler on the Roof, works as a freelance audio engineer, and performs in the region in orchestral, theatrical, and chamber settings.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Rozalind MacPhail is a flutist, singer-songwriter and interdisciplinary artist based in Newfoundland and Labrador. A multi-award-winning Di Zhao Flutes Artist, she performs on piccolo, C flute, alto, and bass flute, blending indie folk, electronica, film, and storytelling. Also a dedicated educator and certified life coach, MacPhail has toured and taught globally over the past two decades. Her vinyl album, *Push & Pull*, is set for release in 2027. rozalindmacphail.com

Kyle Mallari is the trumpet professor at Mercer University. He is acting principal trumpet of the Tallahassee Symphony, second trumpet with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra, and third trumpet with the Pensacola Symphony.

Mariah Manolatos studies with Jessica Petrasek at Georgia State Univ. She holds awards with the NFA, Southeast Michigan Flute Association, and her undergraduate school, Eastern Michigan Univ., as a concerto competition winner. She has participated in the Anatomy of Sound with Amy Porter and in masterclasses with Jeffery Zook, Linda Chesis, and Marina Piccinini. Manolatos previously studied with Julie Stone at Eastern Michigan Univ. and with Amanda Blaikie of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Amanda Markwick plays flutes from the Renaissance through the early Romantic eras, and is a member of the NFA Historical Flutes Committee. She performs regularly throughout Europe and is a member of the Attaignant Consort and the Titans Rising Early Music Ensemble. With Kate Clark, she co-authored *The Renaissance Flute: A Contemporary Guide* (Oxford University Press, 2020). BM and MM, Indiana Univ., BM and MM, Royal Conservatoire The Hague. amandamarkwick.com

Cathi Marro is a musician, educator and artist in Miami, FL. She plays in ensembles ranging from symphony orchestras to flute choirs, rock bands, and a performance art troupe, Kunstwaffen. In her other life as Cat-Hi, she creates cat themed art in various mediums.

Elvis Martinez, born in Venezuela, is a bassist, guitarist, composer, and arranger. Trained at the José Luis Paz Conservatory, he was a member of the Maracaibo Symphony Orchestra for 26 years and a professor for 17 years. Martinez has recorded multiple projects with Huáscar Barradas and toured throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas. He has performed at festivals, in jazz projects, and in collaborations worldwide. In 2018, he collaborated on Miguel Siso's *Identidad*, which won a Latin Grammy.

Cameron Massey is executive director of the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and a flutist by training. Driven by a belief that strong arts organizations make communities stronger, he has also supported the work of orchestras, music festivals, chamber ensembles, and arts funders.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Michael Matsuno is a Los Angeles-based flutist. He served as a teaching artist for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) program, focusing on culturally-responsive teaching. Matsuno is a performer-researcher specializing in contemporary music and music psychology, with faculty appointments at California Institute of the Arts, California State Univ.-Long Beach, and Chapman Univ.

Mary Matthews is an international soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral flutist who has performed on four continents and in venues including Carnegie Hall and Severance Hall. A flute professor at Florida State Univ. and co-author of the *Beatboxing & Beyond* method books, she has also recorded commercially and released multiple albums. MaryMatthewsFlute.com

Jacob Mauldwin is a flutist based in Gainesville, FL. He is the music and performing arts librarian at the University of Florida. He performs with the Gainesville Flute Ensemble. His primary flute teachers are Kristen Stoner, April Clayton, and Nancy Clew.

Simone Maurer is a flutist, Laban/Bartenieff Certified Movement Analyst, music psychology researcher, and Aural Musicianship lecturer at the University of Melbourne in Australia. She directs the Australian Flute Ensemble -- a flute collective committed to the performance, recording, and promotion of Australian repertoire. Alongside performing, she researches the embodied cognition (body language) of flutists and advocates for musician health and wellbeing.

John Mayhood, pianist, teaches at the University of Virginia and is a member of the EcoSono ensemble. MM, Univ. of Illinois with Ian Hobson. His other teachers include Caio Pagano and Jean-Paul Sévilla.

Emma McCartney (she/her) is a Los Angeles-based flutist. She won second prize at the 2017 NFA Orchestral Audition & Masterclass Competition and was a semi-finalist in the 2019 Plowman Competition. She is a teaching artist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) and a freelance musician. BM, DePaul Univ., studying with Jennifer Clippert, Alyce Johnson, Mark Sparks, and Mary Stolper; MM and GC, Univ. of Southern California, studying with Jim Walker.

Amanda McCormick earned a BM from Old Dominion Univ. where she was principal flute of the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra, participated in masterclasses with Gary Schocker, and won the 2010 Young Artist Concerto Competition performing Reinecke's Flute Concerto, Opus 238 with the Old Dominion Univ. Symphony Orchestra. In addition to teaching band, she teaches private flute lessons and serves musically in church.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Colleen McCracken (she/her) is founder and host of the Lessons Unlocked podcast. She is pursuing an MM in performance at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, studying with Erika Boysen. BM in performance, summa cum laude, Univ. of Denver, studying with Julie Thornton. McCracken is originally from Edwardsville, IL, where she studied with Shelly Monier for nine years.

Angela McCuiston is a Musician Fitness Specialist and owner of Music Strong LLC, a business that specializes in fitness, wellness, and injury prevention for musicians. Winner of the 2007 NFA Piccolo Masterclass Competition, she is assistant principal flute/piccolo of Sinfonia Gulf Coast, flutist/piccoloist with the 313th Army Band, and former chair of the NFA Performance Health Committee. MusicStrong.com

Valerie McElroy is co-founder of the Connessa Collective, a performing arts nonprofit dedicated to promoting world music by living composers. She is associate director of the San Diego Youth Symphony and teaches privately. McElroy regularly conducts at the San Diego Summer Music Institute and directs the Villa Musica Flute Ensemble. Her original composition, Journey Chalan for Flute Quartet, had its world premiere at the 2023 NFA Convention. A Chicago native, McElroy studied at DePaul Univ.

Jeremy McEntire is a flutist and teacher based in Richmond, VA. He has served as a Nagahara Flutes representative for more than 25 years.

Adrian Robert McGrady, a flutist from Elmira, NY, studied at SUNY Buffalo and Mansfield Univ. A Pearl Flutes Low Flutes Artist, he performs nationwide on all types of flutes, including contrabass, and has appeared at Carnegie Hall and World Pride 2025 with the LGBTQIA+ Flute Ensemble. He also works with groups such as Melanin Rhapsody, Crystal City Flutes, White Sabers, and is working on Consonance, a low flutes album, and Unseen, Unheard, Unknown...

Karen McLaughlin Large enjoys performing in concerto, solo, chamber, and large ensemble settings. She plays regularly with Traverso Colore: Baroque Flute Ensemble, Tornado Alley Flutes, and the Florida Flute Orchestra. Large is Assistant Professor of Flute at Florida State Univ. College of Music, where she also teaches wind and percussion pedagogy. Her debut CD is String to Silver: Flute Transcriptions of Works in the Romantic Tradition.

Gareth McLearnon is an internationally renowned, multi-award-winning flutist, composer, arranger and educator. In high demand as a soloist, recording artist, orchestral and chamber musician, he travels the world playing concerts and giving masterclasses every year and has performed and taught on six continents. He was European artist-in-residence for the Wm. S. Haynes Flute Co. from 2014-2026 and principal flute of the Heritage Orchestra in London since 2009. He is based in Strasbourg, France.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

John McMurtery is flutist with the New York City Opera and has served as guest principal flute of the Chicago Symphony and the Metropolitan Opera. He performs with Luna Nova and UpTown Flutes, and records for Naxos and Pentatone. He is Associate Professor of Flute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and served on the NFA Board of Directors.

Elizabeth McNutt is internationally recognized for her performances of innovative contemporary music. With recordings released on CRI, Centaur, SEAMUS, EMF, and PARMA labels, she founded and directs Sounds Modern, plays in the Calliope Duo, and improvises in the trio Bitches Set Traps. She is on the faculty of the University of North Texas where she teaches flute, directs the new music group Nova, and coordinates the related field in contemporary music. elizabethmcnutt.net

Roger McVey is Professor of Piano at the University of Idaho Lionel Hampton School of Music. He was a top prizewinner in the International Beethoven Competition (U.S.) and is a passionate advocate for contemporary music, having commissioned or premiered works by Libby Larsen, Marc Mellits, Fang Man, and many others. His past teachers include Menahem Pressler, Jack Winerock, Anton Nel, Herbert Stessin, and Henry Doskey. rogermcvey.com

Dorli McWayne, principal flute of the Fairbanks Symphony, teaches at the University of Alaska, has directed the Fairbanks Flutists for 44 years, and has been the NFA Flute Choirs and Collegiate Flute Choir Competition coordinator. She is a charter member of the NFA Professional Flute Choir, and directed the group in 2000 and 2025.

Christina Medawar, a Seattle native, performed as second flute of the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra from 2010-18 and frequently substitutes with the Seattle Symphony, Seattle Opera, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. She is artistic director of Sustain Music Project, a Pacific Northwest ensemble known for its innovative chamber music performances, and instrumental music teacher at King's Schools in Shoreline, WA.

Zachery S. Meier is an Ohio-based composer and Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Theory, Composition, Queer Studies, and Assistant Director of the TUTTI New Arts Festival at Denison Univ. in Granville, OH. His works have been performed in Europe, Asia, and North America, with performances at U.S. national and regional conferences. BM, Univ. of Minnesota Duluth; MA, Washington State Univ.; PhD, Univ. of Iowa. zacherymeiermusic.com



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Martin Melicharek is the founding director of the Camellia City Flute Choir. He is a graduate of the Univ. of California with degrees in biology and medicine. He studied music theory and composition at California State Univ., Sacramento. He is a member of ASCAP and a life member of the National Flute Association. He is the arranger of many flute choir arrangements, either self-published or through ALRY Publications, Falls House Press, and Sheet Music Plus.

Rachel Mellis is second flute of the Redlands Symphony and flutist with Bridge to Everywhere. She has played with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, LA Opera, John Williams, Danny Elfman, Michael Bublé, Christina Aguilera, "Weird Al" Yankovic, Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Zubin Mehta, and James Conlon. She can be heard on Star Trek: Picard, The Orville, Hocus Pocus 2, Ori and the Blind Forest, Minecraft, ads for New Balance and Sprinkles Cupcakes, and on The Voice and Glee.

Ashley Mendeke is Sergeant First Class with the West Point Band. Prior to joining the band in 2013, she was a freelance flutist and instructor in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and performed as a member of the American Wind Symphony. In 2021, she won the Kujala International Piccolo Competition. BM, Univ. of North Texas, studying with Mary Karen Clardy; she is an MM student at Montclair Univ., studying with Tanya Witek.

Rafael Méndez began his flute studies in Santo Domingo and then earned his BM from the Univ. of Miami Frost School of Music, studying with Jennifer Grim. He is pursuing a master's degree at the Yale School of Music with Tara O'Connor. A prizewinner at the Nancy Clew Eller Artist Competition, he has performed with the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional of the Dominican Republic and other ensembles, including appearances at Carnegie Hall.

Alyssa Mercedes Mena is a Cuban-American flutist and composer based in Miami, FL. She performs with Nu Deco Ensemble, Palm Beach Symphony, Florida Grand Opera, and South Florida Symphony. In 2025, she won first in the Mid-Atlantic Young Artist Flute Competition, second in the NFA Low Flute Artist Competition, and her alto flute work *Hasta La Raíz* was a winner of the NFA Newly Published Music Competition. She is pursuing a DMA in flute performance at the Univ. of Miami Frost School of Music.

Katie Mess is Assistant Teaching Professor of Flute at Montana State University, flutist with the 406 Winds faculty quintet, and president of the Montana Flute Association. She is a health and wellness advocate and a NASM-Corrective Exercise Specialist.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Danilo Mezzadri is an ACUE Distinguished Teaching Scholar at the University of Southern Mississippi. He also teaches at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, International Flute Workshop in Italy, and Festival Plurisons. With more than 50 solo appearances, Mezzadri is principal flute of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra, North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, and New Carolina Sinfonia. He is creator of the Spider Log practice system.

Ettore Michelazzi earned a PhD from the New Bulgarian Univ. in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 2024. This has led him to perform concerts and conduct research in Italy and abroad. As a soloist and chamber musician, he has performed with orchestras throughout Europe, the U.S., Australia, Mexico, and China, and record for radio and television. He is artistic director of the Trieste Flute Festival in Italy.

The Micro Brew Crew is a niche flute choir based in Colorado Springs, CO. This budding ensemble solely performs works that include extended techniques and/or beatboxing. Our intent is to make these techniques fun and accessible for any flute player.

Caewithe Miller (they/them) is a flutist and educator from the Pacific Northwest, passionate about building community through music. They are pursuing a BME at the Univ. of Oregon, studying with Jacqueline Cordova-Arrington and enjoy performing in the school's orchestra and wind ensemble. They attended Interlochen Arts Academy in 2023 for a post-graduate year in flute performance, studying with both Nancy Stagnitta and Anthony Trionfo.

Hayley Miller has held positions with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and performs with the Boston Ballet Orchestra and Albany Symphony Orchestra. She has performed as a guest with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony Orchestra, and Kansas City Symphony. As a chamber musician, Miller performs frequently with Herd Here, Voices of Change, and Fine Arts Chamber Players. Miller is a Haynes Performing Artist.

James Miller is a flutist with the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" in Washington, D.C. Miller is a staunch advocate for diversity, equity, access, and representation in the performing arts. He has a multifaceted career as an educator, soloist, and collaborator.

Shelby Miller (she/her) is pursuing a DMA at the University of South Carolina. A performer, teacher, and presenter, she has appeared at the Wisconsin Flute Festival, Atlanta Flute Club, Texas Flute Society, and Sigma Alpha Iota's 2025 Triennium Convention. Bachelor's degree, Univ. of Northern Iowa; Master's degree, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Charley Mills (he/him) is a bookkeeper dedicated to helping nonprofits succeed. He is a board member for the New York City Master Chorale, with which he also performs, and works with various arts groups across the country.

Delandria Mills is the creator of Kingdom Flute Works, a program created to provide mentorship and to nurture Baltimore city youth. She is also the author of Demi's Flute picture books and novels, written to encourage and celebrate other budding flutists who also share a love of flute playing.

Gabriella Minnes Brandes, based in Vancouver, Canada, has taught the Alexander Technique for more than 35 years to musicians, actors, horseback riders, engineers, and Alexander Technique teacher trainees, and taught in the theater department at Capilano Univ. for more than a decade. Brandes researches creativity, performance, the Alexander Technique, and mindfulness-based approaches to stress management, and is co-chair of Alexander Technique International. She holds a PhD in education.

Elisa Moles (she/her) regularly performs with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony and Heartland Symphony Orchestra. Previous appointments include Adjunct Professor at California State Univ., Fresno and San Joaquin Delta Community College, as well as Teaching Artist in Residence for the San Mateo School District. She has been a prizewinner in several Young Artist Competitions, including Mid-Atlantic, Mid-South, Atlanta Flute Club, and San Diego Flute Guild. MM, Ball State Univ; DMA, Univ. of Illinois.

Osiris J. Molina is Professor of Clarinet at the Univ. of Alabama and principal clarinet of the Tuscaloosa Symphony. A solo, chamber, and orchestral musician, he has performed with symphonies and at Carnegie Hall. A member of the Vuorovesi Trio and Capstone Wind Quintet, he also appears at International Clarinet Association, International Double Reed Society, and NFA events. Degrees from Rutgers, Yale, and Michigan State Univ. He is a Selmer Paris, Silverstein, Gonzalez, and D'Addario artist.

Kelly Mollnow Wilson is a flutist, teacher, and manual therapist in Cleveland, OH. She teaches Body Mapping at Oberlin Conservatory and Cleveland Institute of Music and her private practice serves musicians seeking to maximize their movement potential. She writes monthly for The Flute Examiner and is the lead author/flute author of Teaching Woodwinds: A Guide for Students and Teachers. BME, Baldwin-Wallace College; MM, Ohio State Univ.
precisionperformanceandtherapy.com

Nicole Molumby is Professor of Flute at Boise State University. Her debut CD, *Awakening: 21st Century Slovenian Flute Music*, is available on MSR Classical Records.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Shelly Monier is director of Wind Studies and flute professor at Southern Illinois Univ. Edwardsville, online faculty at St. Louis Community College, and the InterHarmony International Music Festival in Italy. A member of the Gateway Flute Quartet and the St. Louis Wind Symphony, she appeared as soloist in Mike Mower's Concerto for Flute and Griffes' Poem. She adjudicates competitions throughout the Midwest and has served as president of the Flute Society of Saint Louis since 2011.

The Montana Flute Association consists of flute enthusiasts of all ages and ability levels, from beginner to professional, from across the state of Montana. The MFA's mission is to build a thriving flute community through educational outreach and regional and state-wide flute ensemble performances.

Mily Montanez (she/her/ella) is an arts leader, administrator, speaker, and flutist passionate about building inclusive arts communities. She is the Membership Manager of National Flute Association and President of the Board of Directors for Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble. Mily is dedicated to advancing equity in the arts, strengthening nonprofit organizations, and mentoring the next generation of arts leaders.

Alejandro Montiel is a Grammy-nominated guitarist, arranger, recording artist, and educator whose international career has spanned performances throughout the U.S., Mexico, China, Central and South America, and Europe. He is a founding member of the Texas Guitar Quartet and Duo Fortis. He serves on the faculty of the Univ. of Texas at San Antonio, directing the award-winning UTSA Guitar Ensemble.

Diana Morgan (she/her) is an orchestral performer, educator, and Haynes Artist. She is the founder of the DM Flute Studio, a premier online training program for advanced flutists and piccoloists specializing in audition preparation, artistic development, and career strategy. Morgan performs with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, and Santa Barbara Symphony, and at festivals including Ojai, Mainly Mozart, and Spoleto Festival USA. She studied with Jim Walker and Jeanne Baxtresser.

Danny Morissett is a saxophonist and flutist from Phoenix, AZ. BM in jazz performance, Arizona State Univ.; he is pursuing a master's degree in jazz saxophone performance at ASU. A versatile performer, he regularly appears in jazz, R&B, and Top-40 cover bands throughout the greater Phoenix area. Additionally, he has been a member of the Desert Echoes Flute Project since 2024.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Blair Mothersbaugh can often be found wandering in nature with a flute and a backpack. An advocate for community engagement through the arts, his work in Chile with the Global Leaders Institute fused arts-based design with strategic problem-solving. As an accounts manager for Wm. S. Haynes, Mothersbaugh strives to foster authentic relationships that strengthen the flute community. He enjoys cooking, photography, books, filling flat surfaces with plants, and his dog. Degrees: BME, MM, MBA.

The Mountain West Flute Orchestra was organized in June 2025 by flutist, Nancy Toone. The group is comprised of professional flutists from Salt Lake City, UT and surrounding areas. Today's program highlights the evolution of flute choir music from 1931 to 2026. It celebrates the cutting edge, trail blazing composers of each decade.

Angela Muller is Professor of Flute at Florida State College at Jacksonville, owner of Muller Flute Studio in Jacksonville, and a Pettry Piccolo Artist. She is founder and music director of the First Coast Flute Choir and performs with the St. Augustine Orchestra. BME, Univ. of Northern Colorado; MM, Univ. of Denver. She has served as an Army musician with the 101st Colorado Army National Guard, principal flute of the First Coast Wind Symphony, and a musician for numerous operas and musicals.

Laila Murphy is a Portland-area flutist, vocalist, actor, pianist, and dedicated teacher. A Northwestern Univ. graduate in flute performance and musical theater, she has performed with the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Broadway Across America, and many local pit orchestras. Her theater credits include Broadway Rose Theatre Company, Lakewood Theatre Company, Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland Playhouse, and Stumptown Stages.

Sanae Nakayama is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Munich. She was a prizewinner in the ARD International Music Competition in Munich. After focal dystonia interrupted her two-decade career as a performer and teacher in Japan, she worked for many years with Keith Underwood in New York City and was able to return to playing. Nakayama plays alto flute in the Japan Jazz Flute Big Band.

Emily Nazario is a solo artist, pedagogue, and orchestral musician based in the Charlotte metropolitan area. She teaches privately and performs with orchestras throughout the southeastern U.S and was recently appointed Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of South Alabama.

Rebecca Needham recently earned a DMA in flute performance and pedagogy from James Madison University, where she was a graduate teaching assistant. She served as a director for the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention and was previously a graduate teaching assistant at Colorado State University.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Heather Neuenschwander has worked with Flute Specialists since 2013 in online sales and marketing. She is a teacher and performer with degrees in flute performance and music education. She teaches sixth grade beginning band in St. Paul and maintains a private flute studio. She co-founded the Iowa City Flute Choir in 2018 and served as artistic director until relocating in 2025. In September 2025, she released her debut album, *Unseen//Unheard*, with duet partner Rose Bishop.

"New York Flutists, founded in 2018, brings the full flute family to wider audiences through innovative programming. Its members studied at leading conservatories in the U.S. and abroad and serve on the faculties of colleges and universities while maintaining solo, chamber, and orchestral careers. The ensemble was featured at the 2019 and 2024 NFA Conventions and continues to perform throughout the New York area, collaborating with artists including Mindy Kaufman and Keith Underwood.

Frank Ngo is pursuing a bachelor's degree in music performance at Southern Illinois Univ. Edwardsville, studying with Shelly Monier. They teach as a private flute instructor in Jefferson County, Missouri, and serve as secretary and social media outreach coordinator for the SIUE Flute Club. Ngo aims to become a low flute specialist and flute technician while expanding their studio.

Charles Nichols, Professor of Composition and Creative Technologies at Virginia Tech, is a composer, violinist, and computer music researcher. He explores spatial audio, sonification, motion capture, and telematic performance, creating works for ensembles, dance, and multimedia. Nichols performs with Modality and Kill All Kings, and his recent recordings include *Crossing the Divide* and *Embodiment*, with publications in contemporary music research.

Christopher Nichols is Associate Professor of Clarinet and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Delaware School of Music. BM, Boston Conservatory; MM, Kansas State Univ.; DMA, Univ. of Kansas. He performs regularly with orchestras throughout the Mid-Atlantic and is a member of Christiana Winds and Tiger Lily Trio. Nichols serves as acting commander of the 287th Army Band in Wilmington, DE. His recordings have been released on Navona, Viduus, and Albany Records.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Barbara J. Nicoletti joined the Greater Portland Flute Society Board in 2020 and currently serves as president (2023–26), publication editor, publicity/communications officer, and a member of the development committee. She has more than 30 years of experience in applied research and program evaluation for human service organizations. In a past life, she earned a music degree or two. Nicoletti studies flute privately and enjoys performing chamber music informally.

Kelly Nivison is a multifaceted flutist with expertise on Baroque, Romantic, and modern flutes. She is co-director of bands at Ravenscroft School, artistic director of Raleigh Camerata, and performs around the East Coast. BM, Appalachian State Univ.; MM, Florida State Univ.; DM, Indiana Univ. kellynivison.com

Hanna Noh, from South Korea, is pursuing an MM with Alice Dade at the Univ. of Missouri School of Music, where she is a teaching assistant and member of the New Music Ensemble. BM, West Virginia Univ. She performed as soloist with the WVU Symphony Orchestra after winning the Young Artist Competition and was Missouri state winner of the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Division. She will join the New World Symphony as a substitute flutist for the 2026–27 season.

Clara Nováková, born in the Czech Republic into a musical family, studied at the Music Academy in Stuttgart and the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris with Michel Debost. She won several international competitions and awards and was principal flute of the Paris Chamber Orchestra from 1988–2006. Nováková has held teaching positions in Paris and Valencia and, since 2013, has been professor at the Zhejiang Conservatory in Hangzhou, China.

Benjamin Novotny (ASCAP) is a flutist, composer, and arranger based in Pittsburgh, PA, and Miami, FL. He is pursuing a BM in flute performance at the Univ. of Miami Frost School of Music and has performed with Nu Deco Ensemble, Frost Symphony Orchestra, and Mostly Modern Orchestra. Through performance and arrangement, Novotny advocates for underrepresented composers.

Brian Nozny is Assistant Professor of Percussion at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL. A performer, composer, and educator, he performs with the BRN Duo, percussion group JP3, and as a freelance musician throughout the Southeast. His compositions are frequently programmed and have been featured on multiple international recordings.

Rachel Nozny is an active flutist and music engraving specialist. She is piccoloist with the Mobile Symphony Orchestra and performs with several chamber ensembles, including the BRN Duo with percussionist Brian Nozny. Nozny earned degrees from Mercer Univ. and the Univ. of Kentucky, studying with Kelly Via, Gordon Cole, and Carol Wincenc. rachelnozny.com



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Luis Nunez is a BM flute performance major at the University of Tulsa. After attending his first NFA Convention in 2024, he was inspired by the artistry and sense of community within the flute world. He is thrilled to return this year and looks forward to making new friends, sharing music, and continuing to grow as a performer.

Karina Núñez-Hedrick is flute instructor at the U.S. Army School of Music in Little Creek, VA, where she trains new Soldier musicians following their 10-week Basic Combat Training. She has served in Army bands in Texas, Virginia, and South Korea. BM and BME, Ohio State Univ.; MM, Univ. of Memphis.

Miriam Nussbaum is a flutist, composer, and accountant from Ithaca, NY. She was a winner of the 2021 NFA Adult Amateur Competition and has performed in the NFA Professional Flute Choir each year since 2022. Nussbaum studied with Liz Shuhan at Cornell Univ., Sue-Ellen Hershman-Tcherepnin at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Jeanne Sperber at the State Univ. of New York at Binghamton.

Aiven O'Leary is president and master headjoint maker for the Wm. S. Haynes Flute Company. BM, Ithaca College; MM (flute performance), Indiana Univ. Her principal teachers include Wendy Mehne, Claudia Anderson, and Kathryn Lukas. After graduating from Indiana Univ., O'Leary freelanced in the Boston area while teaching privately in Beverly, MA. She has served on the faculties at the Indian Hill School of Music and Gordon College in Wenham, MA.

Meadhbh O'Rourke is a guest flute and piccolo player with many of Ireland's leading orchestras and ensembles. Passionate about the piccolo, she is guest lecturer at the Technological Univ. Dublin Conservatoire, performing with Ireland's leading contemporary ensemble, Concorde Ensemble. O'Rourke was a piccolo semifinalist at the International Competition Concorso Gazzelloni in Naples (2025). She studies with Peter Verhoyen at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp in Belgium.

Matthew Ober, MMA student at the Yale School of Music, has performed with the Richmond Symphony, York Symphony Orchestra, Annapolis Opera, at the National Gallery of Art, and Brevard Music Center. He has received prizes from South Carolina Flute Society, Flute Society of Washington, and National Federation of Music Clubs Beth McAuley Southeast Region Award. MM, Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins Univ.; double degree, flute performance and information science, magna cum laude, Univ. of Maryland.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Lisa Ochoco is a flutist in the Portland, OR area and is a long-time member of the Lake Oswego Millennium Concert Band. A music arranger, pianist, singer, crystal singing bowl practitioner, and occasional conductor, she enjoys exploring many sides of music-making. With extensive experience in band, orchestra, chamber ensembles, and solo gigs, Ochoco especially values the artistry and connection of chamber music, where sharing the joy of flutes creates her most meaningful musical moments.

Shinjung Oh is a flute soloist, chamber musician, and educator in South Korea. She served for many years as co-principal flute of the KBS Symphony Orchestra and has performed internationally. Oh is a Powell Flutes Artist and Professor of Music at Inje Univ.

Camila Oliveira is a Licensed Body Mapping Educator, vice president of Rede Brasileira de Saúde do Artista, and performs with Les flûtistes de Montréal and Orchestre à Vents Non Identifié. BA, Univ. of Campinas, Brazil; MM, Portland State Univ.; Diplôme d'études professionnelles approfondies, Univ. de Montréal. camilaoliveiramusic.com; saudedoartista.com.br

Jenni Olson is a Los Angeles-based Powell Flutes Artist. She has performed on more than 100 film and television soundtracks, including Star Wars, Encanto, and Avatar, and has recorded with Barbra Streisand and Michael Bublé. A soloist with six albums on labels including Delos, Olson is second flute of the Long Beach Symphony and director of woodwinds at California State University, Long Beach.

Rebecca Olson Towers earned bachelor's and master's degrees in flute performance and pedagogy from Central Washington University. She teaches in southwest Washington and at Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR. She performs with several chamber ensembles and the Sunnyside Symphony. Olson Towers serves on the boards of the Greater Portland Flute Society and the Junior Symphony of Vancouver.

Catalina Ortega teaches flute at Northeastern State Univ. in Tahlequah, OK, and the Univ. of Arkansas. She performs with the Arkansas Philharmonic Orchestra, Ozark Family Opera Company, and Fayetteville Opera and has performed and taught throughout the U.S., Colombia, and Thailand. MM, Univ. of Arkansas. Ortega commissions and performs Latin American works for flute.

Shahid Osuna is a Los Angeles-based flutist. He has served as a teaching artist for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) program, focusing on culturally-responsive teaching. Osuna is a long-time teaching artist for the New West Symphony's Laby Harmony Project. His flute choir arrangements have been featured at the NFA Convention and by the L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

The OU Graduate Flute Ensemble is composed of master's and doctoral flute students, along with recent graduates from the flute studio at the University of Oklahoma. Founded in fall 2025 by students of Valerie Watts, the ensemble continues to be led by its founding members.

Belén Palos Tuley is a freelance flutist, retired elementary music teacher, and former adjunct music faculty member at Del Mar College and Texas A&M Univ.-Corpus Christi. BME, Corpus Christi State Univ.; MME, Texas A&I Univ.; EdD, Texas A&M Univ.-Corpus Christi/Kingsville.

Ana Paola Rincones is a Venezuelan flutist, educator, and recording artist based in Los Angeles. A product of El Sistema, she co-founded Global Arts and the Puerto Rico Flute Festival. A former U.S. Marine musician and Myrna Brown Scholarship coordinator since 2021, Rincones has performed worldwide, released award-winning albums, and is a Haynes Artist committed to contemporary and Latin American music and global music education.

Troy Paolantonio, Sergeant First Class, joined the U.S. Army Field Band in 2018. He previously served with the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps (2011-18) and 2ID Warrior Band. BM/BME, Florida State Univ.; MM, Univ. of South Florida; DMA, Catholic Univ. of America. He was Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention program chair in 2019–21, 2025, and 2026; guest artist at the 2017 Kentucky Flute Fair and 2019 Hampton Roads Flute Festival; and concerto soloist at the 2025 Australian Flute Festival.

Dan Parasky is a Wm. S. Haynes Artist, flutist, educator, and founder of The Parasky Flute Studios. His students have won competitions and toured internationally. An adjunct faculty at Duquesne University, he's a clinician and performer in solo, chamber, and conducting roles, specializing in new music. paraskyflutestudios.com

Daniel Pardo is a Colombian/American flutist based out of Houston, TX. BM, Texas State Univ.; MM and DMA, Univ. of North Texas. After 10 years as a U.S. military musician, Pardo is assistant professor of flute at Prairie View A&M Univ. and a Yamaha Performing Artist and Clinician. danielpardo.com

Soo-Kyung Park (she/her) is founding member and artistic director of Musicians of Lenox Hill and New York Flutists, and founder of SKP Consulting and Management. She has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in the U.S., Europe, and Asia and released the album *Reminiscing*. Park is on the faculty of New York University and the Manhattan School of Music Precollege. She studied with Julius Baker and Jeanne Baxtresser at Juilliard and holds BM and MM degrees.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Brynna Paros is Assistant Professor of Flute at East Tennessee State University. An orchestral and chamber musician, she performs as a substitute flutist with the Johnson City Symphony and Symphony of the Mountains and is a member of the ETSU faculty woodwind quintet. Her multidisciplinary research examines audience engagement in classical music. BM and BS, Univ. of Oregon; MM and DMA, Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Taylor Pastore is a collegiate flutist and music educator. A native of Canonsburg, PA, she is a music education major at Slippery Rock University, where she studies with Cassandra Eisenreich. Pastore is a two-time member of the NFA Collegiate Flute Choir and was selected to participate in the Mid-Atlantic Flute Society Guest Artist Masterclass with Rhonda Larson. She won the 2024 Butler Symphony Orchestra Collegiate Concerto Competition.

Quinn Patrick Ankrum, mezzo soprano, is a voice teacher and Licensed Body Mapping Educator with an avid interest in musicians' health and wellness. She has performed throughout the U.S. and abroad. With pianist Elizabeth Avery, Ankrum co-founded the Living Song Project, a database promoting the vocal music of living American composers; the duo also commissions and performs new works. She is Associate Professor at the University of Cincinnati-CCM.

Tereasa Payne has appeared as a soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic, performed on pan flute on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and ocarina on The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, and performs regularly with Disney's The Lion King. She teaches virtual lessons privately and through the Bloomingdale School of Music in New York City. tereasapayne.com

Elizabeth Pearson is a music therapy graduate of Shenandoah Conservatory, where she received high honors in both flute and piano. Her performances included the Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, ShenCo Lab Festival, and Chimers Music Therapy Ensemble. Pearson is a research fellow at McGill University and performed with three ensembles at the 2025 NFA Convention, including the National LGBTQIA+ Flute Choir.

Lea Pearson is a leader in pedagogy that helps musicians prevent pain and recover the ability to play with joy and ease. She is author of Body Mapping for Flutists: What Every Flute Teacher Needs to Know About the Body. Pearson holds a DMA from The Ohio State Univ. and is a Fulbright Scholar, Wm. S. Haynes Teaching Artist, and Licensed Body Mapping Educator.

Abigail Peel is pursuing an MM in flute performance at the University of Michigan with Amy Porter. BM, University of Miami with Jennifer Grim. She previously studied with Catherine Gregory and Jane Bent. She is a mentor for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Civic Youth Ensemble program, flute instructor at Belleville HS, and holds the second flute and piccolo position of the West Michigan Symphony.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Bridget Pei joined the Seattle Symphony in 2023 after completing graduate studies at Rice University with Leone Buyse. She previously performed with the Houston Symphony and was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center. Pei earned her bachelor's degree from Northwestern Univ., where she studied with John Thorne and performed with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Having found her home in Seattle, Pei enjoys teaching, playing chamber music, and backpacking when not at Benaroya Hall.

Alessandro Penezzi (he/him) is a guitarist and composer from Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brazil. He has recorded more than 20 albums of Brazilian music and has taught at the California Brazil Camp since 2010.

Evan Pengra Sult is principal flute of Pacific Northwest Ballet and has performed with the Britt Festival Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, and Seattle Opera. He holds degrees from Eastman and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and was twice a fellow at Tanglewood. Sult is president of the Seattle Flute Society and an obituarist and critic for *The Flutist Quarterly*. He is also an avid reader, tap dancer, crossword enthusiast, and politics junkie.

Katrina Penman is a flutist and composer. Her albums *Lumina* (2024) and *Beyond* (2025) received Global Music Awards in the Classical Album, Composition, and Instrumentalist categories. Her ensemble works have received awards from the Galway International Flute Festival, Associação de Flautistas de Portugal, and the NFA Newly Published Music Competition. Penman's music has been performed in the U.S., Latin America, Europe, and Australia, including at the Teatro Real in Madrid.

Giovanni A. Pérez is assistant professor of global music and flute at Liberty Univ. A flutist, educator, producer, and recording artist from Puerto Rico, he has performed at NFA Conventions, the Tampere Flute Festival, Istanbul Improvisation Clinics, and the Pine Mountain Music Festival. Pérez is a Latin Grammy-nominated producer and a Global Music Award recipient. BM, Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico; MM, Univ. of South Florida; DMA, Stony Brook Univ.

Daniel Pesca (he/him) is a Rochester, NY-based composer and pianist. He has written for the American Wild Ensemble, Constellation Chamber Concerts, Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition, and Oberlin Sinfonietta. His album *Walk with Me, My Joy* was released on New Focus Recordings. Pesca has premiered more than 200 works, performs with the Grossman Ensemble and Zohn Collective, and appears on more than 20 commercial albums. He is on the composition faculty at Eastman.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Jessica Petrasek is lecturer of flute at Georgia State Univ. in Atlanta. She is tenured assistant principal flute and piccolo with the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra and piccolo and utility flute with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in Georgia. Petrasek is a founding member of Hera Trio with oboist Lara Dahl and pianist Miya Sun. She and her husband, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra principal percussion Joe Petrasek, perform as the Petrasek Duo, and give performances and masterclasses nationwide.

Jammie N. Phillips is a music educator, musician, writer, and speaker whose work explores the intersection of artistry, identity, and education. Her career spans classroom instruction, performance, and published scholarship. Her work challenges traditional narratives while creating space for more intentional, culturally grounded approaches to teaching and learning.

Oliver Phillips attends Memorial HS in Eau Claire, WI, where he is first chair flute and piccolo in the top wind ensemble, performs in the school orchestra and jazz ensemble, and played reed one for Les Misérables. He was selected for the Wisconsin State Music Association Middle Level Honor Band, High School Honor Band, and Honor Orchestra, and received an Exemplary Performance Award at the WSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest. He studies flute with Brian Allred and jazz saxophone with Sue Orfield.

Tammara K. Phillips is Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Stetson Univ. She holds degrees from Stetson, James Madison Univ., and Florida State Univ. A baroque flute specialist, she is a founding member of Traverso Colore and prizewinner in NFA competitions. Phillips has published numerous transcriptions through the Traverso Colore Series and performs regularly with the Orlando Philharmonic. She is an educator, adjudicator, and past leader of the Florida Flute Association.

Alexis Phinney holds MM degrees in flute performance and chamber music from the Univ. of Michigan, where she studied with Amy Porter and served as a graduate student instructor. She won second prize in the 2025 NFA Orchestral Audition & Masterclass Competition, was a finalist in the 2025 New York Flute Club Competition, and won first prize at the 2024 Wisconsin Flute Festival. Phinney has contributed to numerous recordings, including a Grammy-nominated recording for Best Orchestral Performance.

Laura Pillman Patterson is a performer and teacher based in northern Alabama. She has performed throughout the U.S. and Europe and specializes in new and electroacoustic music. Patterson has received awards from the Protégé International Music Talent Competition and Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition. She is a woodwind instructor and freelance musician.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Raimundo Pineda is a Venezuelan flutist, composer, and conductor. His catalog includes solo concertos, chamber works, and symphonic music performed internationally. Formerly solo flutist of the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, he later conducted Venezuelan ensembles and the National Flute Orchestra.

Jessica Piso is instructor of flute at Maryville College and Lee Univ. and teaches a private studio in east Tennessee. She serves on the NFA Flute Clubs Committee and is a former executive board member of the Oklahoma Flute Society. Piso has performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchard Park Symphony Orchestra, and Oklahoma Festival Ballet and has served as an All-State and competition adjudicator in Oklahoma, Florida, and Tennessee.

Kerry Politzer is a Portland-based jazz pianist, composer, and educator. She is on the music faculty of Portland State Univ. and Clackamas Community College and has also taught at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Swing Univ. Politzer has released nine albums as a leader, including *Alternate Route* on Whirlwind Recordings. She performs throughout the U.S. and Canada with her trio and quartet.

Noah Pool (they/them) is pursuing a DMA in flute performance at the Univ. of Oklahoma, where they serve as a graduate teaching assistant. They've enjoyed commissioning and premiering works for flute and electronics that explore the queer experience. BA, Missouri Southern State Univ.; MM, Oklahoma State Univ.

J. Andrew Porter, Master Sergeant, joined the West Point Band in 2005 and has served as Hellcats Element Leader since 2023. In addition to teaching positions in Texas and Kentucky, he has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Baton Rouge Symphony, Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps, and Music City Mystique. Porter has also appeared at Drum Corps International, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and the Royal Marines School of Music.

The Portland State University Flute Choir is composed of music majors, music minors, community members, and alumni. Directed by Zachariah Galatis, Professor of Flute at PSU, the ensemble performs original works for flute choir as well as arrangements of classical and popular music.

Chris Potter is president of the International Low Flutes Association. She was the first chair of the NFA Low Flutes Committee and has commissioned and premiered numerous works as a performer and conductor. Potter is author of the *Advanced Alto Method* and other publications for low flutes and directs annual low flute retreats. chrispotterflute.com



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Ted Powell is collaborative pianist at Texas Woman's Univ. and a member of the TWU Chamber Trio with flutist Pam Youngblood and saxophonist Roy Allen. He performs contemporary and traditional repertoire and has appeared at the North American Saxophone Alliance Convention. BM and MM, Southern Methodist Univ.; DMA, Univ. of North Texas. A percussionist as well, Powell performed with the Meadows Percussion Ensemble at SMU.

Shanna Pranaitis is a flutist who creates immersive concert experiences integrating new and historically reimagined works with theater, movement, lighting, and storytelling. She performs and teaches internationally and is artistic director and co-founder of FluteXpansions.com. Pranaitis is also a certified Integrative Hypnotist and Transformational Coach. shannapranaitis.com

PRO LOW Flute Orchestra, directed by Paige Dashner Long and Chris Potter, is composed of select, highly advanced, professional low flutists from across the U.S. and beyond. The ensemble has performed at numerous NFA conventions as part of NFA Low Flutes Committee concerts.

Emissary Quartet cultivates connection and opportunity through performances, residencies, educational programs, and new commissions. Based across the U.S., its members convene for concerts and teaching, often collaborating with artists in other disciplines. Projects include Emissary Artists in Houston (2023) and UTILITY with Synchronous Creative in New York City (2024).

Donald Rabin is a freelance artist in Missouri and Texas. His performances have been featured on Good Morning Chicago, CBS Chicago, and NBC's documentary SkyBlossom. An advocate for community engagement, he has served as a Houston Symphony CEM Fellow and Boston Symphony Collegiate Ambassador. Rabin holds leadership positions with the Flute Society of Saint Louis, Floot Fire, and the NFA. His primary teachers include Aralee Dorough, Sarah Brady, Julianna Moore, Jennifer Nitchman, and Mark Sparks.

Paul Rafanelli has been a member of the Seattle Symphony since 1992 and joined the faculty of the Univ. of Washington in 2021. He previously taught at the Univ. of Puget Sound from 1998–2014. Rafanelli performs with the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival, Orca Concert Series, the Seattle Symphony Musicians' Chamber Music Series, and as a concerto soloist with the Seattle Symphony. He studied at the Univ. of Washington, Manhattan School of Music, and Juilliard.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Tiffany Ragan is a music educator, honor choir director, and private flute teacher. Her honors include Elk City Intermediate Teacher of the Year (2022), finalist for District Teacher of the Year, and the 2023 Outstanding Young Music Educator Award from the Oklahoma Music Education Association. Ragan serves the NFA as Convention equipment manager and the Oklahoma Flute Society as Flute Fair assistant chair.

Laura Rakel Pirruccello, Chief Musician with the U.S. Coast Guard Band, joined the band in October 2007. Bachelor's in music education and flute performance, Univ. of North Texas; MM, Manhattan School of Music. Pirruccello was awarded golf, music, and academic scholarships while attending UNT.

David Ramirez is a Salvadoran-American flutist based in Los Angeles and holds the piccolo chair with the San Gabriel Valley and Whittier symphonies. He earned degrees from the Univ. of Southern California and California State Univ., Northridge. Ramirez has appeared as a soloist with the USC Chamber Orchestra and is co-founder of the SoCal Chamber Ensemble. He performs with Swarmius and is a resident teaching artist for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA).

Jessica Raposo Coleman is Associate Professor of Music and Department Chair at Indiana University East. A solo, orchestral and chamber musician, her work includes The Melba Project and Duo Rouge. BM, Univ. of Michigan; MM, Royal Academy of Music; DMA, Univ. of British Columbia. jessicaraposo.com

Cary Ratcliff's compositions include the operas Eleni, Ellis Island, and children's opera Mice and Beans; recordings include the oratorio Ode to Common Things on Pablo Neruda poems, Kathryn Lewek Sings Cary Ratcliff, and Rejoice, virtuosic carols for Flute, Harp, and Hammer Dulcimer; works include Gitanjali Dances (fl/pno), Grasshopper Dances, Fresh Wind for Our Sails (fl/cl/pno), and Fantasy (fl/pno). He created soundtracks for the Smithsonian and plays piano with the Rochester Philharmonic.

Nicolás Real is a Venezuelan-American flutist, teacher, conductor, and composer. BM, Univ. Institute of Musical Studies (IUDEM) in Venezuela; MM, Central Michigan Univ.; DMA, Temple Univ. Real is artistic director of the Gulf Coast Flute Choir, principal flute of The Villages Philharmonic, flute teaching affiliate at Eckerd College, and founder-director of The Real Flute Studio. nicolasreal.wixsite.com/mysite



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Deborah Rebeck Ash plays contrabass flute in the Michigan Flute Orchestra and alto flute in the International and Metropolitan flute orchestras. She directs the Lower Michigan Low Flute Ensemble and Southeast Michigan Flute Association Flute Choir. A past NFA Low Flute Competition coordinator and winner of the 1997 Professional Performer Competition, Ash taught at the Univ. of Windsor and was principal flute of the Plymouth Symphony. She is also a composer, poet, and colored pencil artist.

Carla Rees (she/her) is Head of Year and Professor of Low Flutes and contemporary flute at the Royal Academy of Music, London. She is editor of *Pan* (journal of the British Flute Society), director of Tetractys Publishing, and NFA Commissions Coordinator. PhD, Royal College of Music, London. carlarees.co.uk

P. Brent Register is a composer, musician, and educator. His works have received awards and been premiered in New York City, Chicago, Phoenix, and San Diego. BME, Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro; MM, Manhattan School of Music; DMA, Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro. He has also studied at Mannes College of Music, the Univ. of Oslo, and the Norges Musikkhøgskolen in Oslo. Register is a member of ASCAP.

Olivia Remak is communications intern for the NFA. BM in music education and performance, Univ. of Memphis, where she studied with Elise Blatchford; MM in performance, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she studied with John McMurtery. She directs the Las Vegas Flute Ensemble and has performed for Lorna McGhee, Brandon Patrick George, Marianne Gedigian, Jill Felber, and Aaron Goldman. She is dedicated to education and arts advocacy, and strives to bring those elements into everything she does.

Kalina Rencher is a sophomore flute performance major at Brigham Young Univ., where she studies with Christina Castellanos. She plays principal flute and piccolo in several BYU ensembles, including the Wind Symphony. Originally from Beaverton, OR, Rencher has participated in competitions and performances throughout the western U.S. and toured Brazil with the BYU Wind Symphony. She enjoys sharing music with others through collaboration, performance, and teaching.

David Fernando Reyes Rodriguez began flute studies at age eight in Venezuela and is a former member of El Sistema. Winner of the 2023 Soloist Competition at the Distrital Univ., he earned his BM in Bogotá and is pursuing an MM in flute performance at the Univ. of Southern Mississippi.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Rachel Reyes is a Filipino-American flutist, teacher, and advocate for new music and underrepresented composers. She has performed and taught in the U.S., China, and the Philippines. Reyes performs with the Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra and Seattle Modern Orchestra. She also teaches with the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra Conservatory of Music. DMA, Univ. of Washington.

Ysmael Reyes is a Venezuelan flutist who has performed across the Americas, Italy, and Russia. He is a prizewinner of the NFA Convention Performers Competition and the First Latin American Flute Competition. Reyes premieres works by Latin American composers and released *Incanto* on Clear Note Records. He is principal flute of the Colorado Bach Ensemble and Cheyenne Symphony and teaches at Colorado State University.

Jennifer Rhyne is Associate Professor of Music at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA, where she plays second flute of the Symphony Tacoma and is principal flute of the Vashon Opera Orchestra. She holds degrees from Oberlin, the University of Michigan, and Stony Brook University. She served as assistant program chair for the 2017 NFA Convention in Minneapolis.

Erika Richardson (she/her) is NFA development manager. While earning a BM at Louisiana State Univ., she taught at Kids' Orchestra where she witnessed how equitable access to the arts builds healthy communities. That resolve followed her as she earned an MM from the Boston Conservatory. Richardson now leads the NFA's development efforts to strengthen the flute community and making music more accessible to all.

Lance Suzuki is a resident artist with Chamber Music Hawai'i, president of the Hawai'i Flute Society, principal flute and chair of instrumental studies at the Wintergreen Festival, and a digital content creator with over four million views. He has performed as a soloist and chamber musician at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Marlboro and Bard Festivals. BM, Univ. of Southern California; MM, Manhattan School of Music.

Dale Riegle is principal trumpet of the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra and the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. He is the voice of the local radio station at the University of West Florida.

Nicole Riner (she/her) is a recitalist, pedagogue, and commissioner of new music. She has premiered numerous works as a soloist and chamber musician and recorded for ACA, Aerocade, Centaur, and Albany Records. Riner is associate lecturer of flute and entrepreneurship at the University of Wyoming, president of the Flute New Music Consortium, and an Altus Performing Artist. nicoleriner.com



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Kelly Riordan (she/her) is a pedagogue, content creator, and music business marketer. As co-founder of Outside the Bachs, she supports musicians in developing their private music studios and delivering the highest quality education to their students. MM, Univ. of Georgia. She is a Conn-Selmer Artist and Vandoren Artist-Clinician.

Myles Roberts is a South African flutist whose career spans three continents as a soloist and orchestral musician. A laureate of numerous competitions, his honors include the Sir James Galway Headjoint Prize, second prize at the CanAmerican Solo Artist Flute Competition, third prize at the Colorado Flute Association Solo Artist Competition, and multiple first-prize awards in South Africa.

Steven Robertson retired after 44 years of teaching high school band programs in the Pacific Northwest. He was also director of the Concord Blue Devils B Drum and Bugle Corps and a band director at Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR. Robertson now works as a school representative for Music World stores in Vancouver and Battle Ground, WA, and arranges music for the Cascades Flute Choir.

Elizabeth Robinson is a solo, orchestral, and chamber musician. She holds the Marvin Maydew piccolo chair of the Topeka Symphony. Her debut album, *Aviary*, features audience-commissioned works for solo flute, piccolo, and flute quartet. Robinson co-founded the Flute New Music Consortium to expand the flute repertoire through new commissions. She is on the faculty of Oklahoma City University.

Arturo Rodriguez is a Bay Area flutist, composer, and educator. He has performed with the San Francisco Philharmonic, Bay Area Rainbow Symphony, and Awesome Orchestra Collective. His works, including *Iridescent Fanfare*, *Songs of Our Struggles*, and *Waves of Infinity*, were premiered at NFA Conventions from 2022-25. Rodriguez co-founded the Melanin Rhapsody Flute Choir and teaches at the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts.

Javier Rodriguez is Associate Professor of Bassoon and Associate Director of the University of Idaho Lionel Hampton School of Music. He performs with the Post-Haste Reed Duo and the Northwest Wind Quintet, and co-directs the Double Reed Ensemble. His work centers on commissioning and performing chamber music by underrepresented composers. Rodriguez holds degrees from Florida State University and Louisiana State University.

Manuel Rojas is a Venezuelan flutist trained through El Sistema and at the Simón Bolívar Conservatory in Caracas. He has presented masterclasses throughout the Americas and Europe and performed in more than 20 countries. Rojas was a member of Ensamble Gurrufío and has released 11 solo albums. In 2023, his work on the album "Ofrenda" was nominated for a Latin Grammy Award. He is a flutist with the Houston Latin Philharmonic.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Melissa Rolón-Mitchell teaches flute and general music in the Metro Atlanta area. BM, Georgia Southern Univ.; BME, Kennesaw State Univ.

Kristine Rominski is a freelance flutist and private teacher in Seattle, WA. She specializes in choro, tango, and classical music, performing with Cafecito and the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra. Rominski is the membership chair of the Seattle Flute Society and co-chair of Clube do Choro Cascadia. BM, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, studied with Stephanie Jutt; MM in flute performance, Carnegie Mellon Univ., studied with Alberto Almarza and Jeanne Baxtresser.

Rose City Flute Choir (RCFC), formed in 1986 by Treese Kjeldsen, is a community performing ensemble and non-profit organization. Dedicated to weekly rehearsals and the performance of quality flute ensemble literature, the choir performs throughout the Portland area.

Hunter Rosier is musical director of Flûtrange. They performed with and directed flute choirs across the U.S., including the Apple Valley Flute Choir and Flûtrange. Rosier studied flute performance and music education and earned an MA in teaching from Christopher Newport Univ. in 2022.

Matthew Ross was appointed second flute of the National Symphony Orchestra in 2023 by Gianandrea Noseda. He previously served in the same position with the Albany Symphony, was acting principal flute for two seasons, and concurrently a fellow with The Orchestra Now at Bard College. A prizewinner in numerous competitions, Ross is a Yamaha Performing Artist. BM and MM, Univ. of Cincinnati-CCM.

Shelly Rouse-Freitag is a freelance musician in metro Detroit, playing piccolo with the Warren and Oakland symphonies and second flute with the Michigan Philharmonic. She has performed in Germany, toured the U.S. and Canada with the Freiburg Academic Orchestra, and with the Singapore Symphony. Rouse-Freitag maintains a flute studio in West Bloomfield, MI, and has taught flute and woodwind methods in Michigan and Austria and beginning woodwinds in the Walled Lake School District.

Angelica Ruiz-Nuby is a pedagogue, performer, and teacher. She has studied with Janette Erickson, Pam Ellsey, Mathew Krejci, Linda Lukas, Teresa Beaman, Helen Ann Shanley, Helen Blackburn, Elizabeth McNutt, and Terri Sundberg. She is affiliated with the Texas Flute Society and the NFA.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Marilyn Ruthruff attends Grant HS in Portland, OR and studies with Sydney Carlson. Ruthruff is principal flute of the Portland Youth Philharmonic. She was a national finalist at the 2025 MTNA junior woodwinds competition and the state winner and Northwest division alternate in the 2026 MTNA senior woodwinds competition. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and traveling.

Lucie Rutishauser has been studying flute for six years. She plays flute with her school band, the Seattle Youth Symphony orchestras, and in Sandra Saathoff's flute studio. When not practicing, she enjoys hiking, spending time with family and friends, reading, and painting.

Ali Ryerson is a touring jazz artist, composer, and educator featured in the DownBeat Jazz Poll. She has served as the NFA's Jazz and the Low Flutes Committees chair, founded the NFA Jazz Flute Big Band, helped establish the Jazz Artist Competition, and as 2023 Convention program chair. Her compositions are published by Theodore Presser, Tetractys, ACR Music, and Edition Kossack. Ryerson is a Sankyo Artist and teaches masterclasses worldwide. aliryerson.com

Sandra Saathoff is a performer and pedagogue who helped launch the Silver Flight Ensembles and Foundation nonprofit organization. In 2004, she joined the Bellevue Youth Symphony as flute ensemble director and flute orchestra conductor. A published author and arranger, she performed and taught throughout the U.S. and Europe. She served the NFA as assistant program chair, secretary, convention manager, and Long-Range strategic planning committee member. DMA, Univ. of Nebraska.

Katherine Saenger worked as a scientist and inventor at IBM Research for 30 years before studying ergonomic headjoint design, flute and recorder acoustics, and artificial blower development in her home laboratory. Her ergonomic headjoint research was featured in the 2022 Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. AB in physics, Barnard College; PhD in chemical physics, Harvard Univ. She studied flute with John Wummer, Harold Bennett, and Thomas Nyfenger.

Jeremy Samolesky, native of Manitoba, Canada, is a Steinway Artist and the Ike and Rhonda Scott Endowed Professor of Music and head of Keyboard Studies at Auburn Univ. He has performed on four continents and regularly appears as a performer and teacher at universities and conservatories worldwide.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Terri Sánchez is a Miyazawa Performing Artist, professor at the Univ. of Missouri–Kansas City, and author of The Aspiring Flutist’s Practice Book Series. Her previous teachers include Leticia Ledesma, Helen Blackburn, Jean Larson Garver, Alexa Still, Debbie Baron, Kara Kirkendoll Welch, Terri Sundberg and Elizabeth McNutt. BM Univ. of Colorado–Boulder, MM Southern Methodist University, DMA Univ. of North Texas. Sanchez has taught at the Univ. of Texas–Arlington and Bowling Green State Univ.

Akshara Sankar attends Rice Univ. and studies with Hyeonjeong Choi. She has received soloist awards from the Texas Flute Society, Denton Bach Society, Maverick Soloist Competition, and Claire Johnson Soloist Competition and has performed at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall. A TMEA All-State musician throughout high school, Sankar has performed in masterclasses for Alberto Almarza, Marina Piccinini, and Helen Blackburn.

Janice Santiago is a Puerto Rican flutist and educator. She is founder and executive director of the Puerto Rico Flute Festival, which promotes collaboration, education, and cultural exchange. Through the festival, Santiago has created opportunities for flutists to connect, learn, and perform together.

Beate Sass is an Atlanta photographer and collage artist. In 2024, Sass began experimenting with analog collag to combine her imagery with found papers. This practice evolved from her love of paper, tactile aesthetics, and the endless possibilities to create an imagined narrative.

Uma Satapathy attends the Awty International School in Houston, TX. She is a prizewinner in the Houston Flute Club's Young Artist and Denise Jennings competitions and earned top chair placements in the ATSSB Region Band for five consecutive years. Satapathy studies with Kelly DeVany and previously studied with Carolyn Krysl Hutchinson. She also enjoys playing piano and swimming.

Robert Satterlee is professor of piano at Bowling Green State Univ. in Ohio. An international soloist, he also teaches piano and chamber music at Interlochen Arts Camp in the summers.

Debra Schild is principal flute of the Sound Symphony and a member of the Atlantic Wind Symphony. She is a member of the Long Island Flute Club and conductor of their Professional Flute Choir. Schild performed with the Professional Flute Choir at the 2024 International Low Flute Festival and has toured with the International Flute Orchestra and Metropolitan Flute Orchestra. She also has chamber music experience. Schild is a member of the NFA Low Flutes Committee.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Eli Schille-Hudson, a guitarist based in Bellingham, WA, leads the guitar studio at Western Washington Univ. At Western, he teaches courses in music theory, guitar history, pedagogy, and fretboard harmony. He also teaches applied lessons and conducts and arranges for the WWU Guitar Ensemble.

Joeli Schilling is a Greensboro-based flutist and music educator pursuing a DMA in flute performance at the Univ. of North Carolina–Greensboro. She studies with Erika Boysen and serves as a graduate teaching assistant. She has won the 2024 NFA Masterclass Performers Competition and prizes in the Raleigh Area Flute Association, Colorado Flute Association, and South Carolina Flute Society Young Artist competitions. Schilling serves as NFA Exhibitors Concert & Showcase assistant coordinator.

Nancy Schneeloch-Bingham performs across North America and Europe on Renaissance, Baroque, 19th-century, and modern flutes. A founding member of Harmonia Baroque and the Irish group Sunday's Well, she directs the Hayes School of Music's Ireland Program and tours with Dúo Pelirroja. She has performed with regional symphonies, presented for flute associations, and received teaching awards from Appalachian State Univ. and the North Carolina Board of Governors.

Doug Schneider is a keyboardist in the Pacific Northwest and appeared with the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Portland Symphonic Choir, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Oregon Bach Festival, Oregon Festival Chorale, Pacific Youth Choir, Oregon Music Festival, Portland State Univ. Opera, and Broadway in Portland at the Keller Auditorium. He is director of sacred music and organist at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Salem, OR.

Gary Schocker is a flutist, pianist, harpist, composer, and teacher. He has performed and taught on five continents, and is the most-published living composer of flute music. He lives in New York City. garyschocker.com

Jessica Schury Peckham is a flutist, educator, and collaborator. She is assistant professor of flute at West Texas A&M Univ. and serves on the faculty of Carol Wincenc's Creating Resonance Retreat, held each summer in upstate New York. Peckham is a Wm. S. Haynes Young Artist. BM/BME, West Chester Univ. of Pennsylvania; MM, Stony Brook Univ.; DMA, Univ. of North Texas.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Aaron D. Scott, Master Sergeant with the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," performs concerts, ceremonies, and masterclasses nationwide, including at the Kennedy Center, the Academy of Music, and Avery Fisher Hall. He also performs with the U.S. Army Woodwind Quintet, reaching communities and schools across the country. Scott was principal clarinet of the Warren Philharmonic and has performed with the New World, Dayton, and Youngstown Symphony orchestras and at festivals in the U.S. and Europe.

Kraig Scott has served as professor of organ, harpsichord, and music history at Walla Walla Univ., as well as minister of music at Walla Walla Univ. Church since 1986. He has played organ recitals in Canada, Korea, Germany, Netherlands, and throughout the U.S. He is an alumnus of Walla Walla Univ. MMus in early keyboard instruments, Univ. of Oregon; MA in musicology and DMA in organ, Eastman.

Shannon Scott is principal clarinet of the Walla Walla Symphony, professor emeritus of clarinet and history of music at Washington State Univ., and retired principal clarinet of the Eastern Music Festival.

Janet See's performances and recordings on the Baroque and early classical flutes have reached audiences around the world. She is an ambassador for the performance of 18th-century music on the instrument for which it was written. janetsee.com

The Seattle Flute Society Flute Choir is an ensemble for adult amateur flutists with no audition required. The choir fosters an environment for developing musicians while performing new flute choir repertoire alongside standards.

Luisa Sello is a concert soloist, Miyazawa Artist, and professor at New Bulgarian Univ. in Sofia and the Orpheus Academy in Vienna. She holds PhD and DMA degrees and records for Stradivarius, Dynamic, and Millennium (Beijing). Sello has performed throughout Europe, the U.S., Asia, Africa, and Japan. She studied with Raymond Guiot in Paris. Sello has appeared at NFA conventions from 2022-25.

Emily Senchuk studied flute with Clement Barone at Wayne State Univ. and earned a degree in music composition. She is a freelance musician and woodwind teacher in Los Angeles and performs with several ensembles, including the Los Angeles Flute Orchestra, for which she composes and serves as manager.

Peter Senchuk is a Los Angeles composer, conductor, and trombonist. His music, ranging from orchestral and jazz to film, has been performed throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, and Japan. He has received numerous commissions and awards, and his works are published by Theodore Presser.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Hyeji Seo, assistant professor of practice at Colorado State Univ., is a pianist, collaborative and chamber musician, and educator. She has performed throughout the U.S., Europe, and Korea.

Set of Flutes in Kongo was founded in September 2022 by Tychique Mabanza to mentor young musicians in Kinshasa. The ensemble has performed at numerous cultural events throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo and continues to promote the country's musical culture.

Kristi Shade, based in New York City, began playing the harp at age two. She performs in a variety of musical settings, including classical, jazz, pop, Broadway, and contemporary. Shade is principal harp of the Chamber Orchestra of New York, with which she has recorded five albums for Naxos. She is a member of the flute-violin-harp trio Hat Trick and the harp duo Duo Scorpio.

Jennifer Shannon is a freelance flutist and teacher in central Oklahoma and pursuing a DMA in flute at the Univ. of Oklahoma. Before moving to Oklahoma, she taught music at Lamar Univ. and Lee College and performed with the Symphony of Southeast Texas and Southeast Texas Winds and Percussion. Her primary teachers include Valerie Watts, Jennifer Keeney, and Paul Thompson. BM, Univ. of Houston; MM, Univ. of Oklahoma.

Daniel Sharp began flute at age 9, studying at Settlement Music School and performing with the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra. He earned degrees from Temple Univ., studying with Kazuo Tokito, and the San Francisco Conservatory, studying with Tim Day. He performed with the YouTube Symphony at the Sydney Opera House and won the Music Academy of the West Concerto Competition. He joined Verne Q. Powell Flutes and was promoted to vice president of business strategy and product development in 2025.

Chip Shelton is a multi-flutist, playing instruments from piccolo to sub-contrabass flute. He performs his brand of 'celebratory, feel-good jazz' on reeds, vocals, percussion, and more. With 11 recordings, Shelton tours internationally. His music explores life themes with a personal style.

Rob Sheppard is a flutist/saxophonist raised in Tualatin, OR and based in Southern California, where he lives with his wife and their cat. He is known for his work with longtime friend Louis Cole in the duo Knower, with whom he has performed at festivals and venues worldwide. His debut jazz album, *Home* (2025), is available at rsjazz.com and on streaming services. He credits his family and mentors Dann Zinn and Katisse Buckingham for their influence.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Serena Shih attends Westfield HS in New Jersey, and is a member of the wind ensemble and flute ensemble. She has been a member of the New Jersey Youth Symphony flute ensembles for four years and performs with its top ensemble, Fortissimo Flutes. She was selected for the Central Jersey Music Educators Association Intermediate Regional Band (2022–24) and performed with a flute quartet at the New York Flute Club's 2023 Flute Fair. She has studied with Jenny Cline for seven years.

Meerenai Shim (she/her) is a chamber musician, record producer, and Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner. She is half of the flute and percussion duo A/B Duo and board president of Aerocade Music, the record label she founded in 2015. Shim is the NFA Professional Flute Choir Competition Coordinator.

Sarah Shin is lecturer of flute at Princeton Univ. and a Wm. S. Haynes Artist, performing on a custom 14K white gold flute. She has appeared at the Musikverein Wien Golden Hall, Tonhalle Zürich, and Lotte Concert Hall (Seoul), and performed with Lizzo at the 2023 Met Gala. Her recording of Mozart's Flute Concertos was released on Sony Classical. She is grateful to her teachers Jeanne Baxtresser, Alberto Almarza, Bart Feller, Thomas Robertello, Judy Grant, Sonja Giles, and Marianne Gedigian.

Sabina Shu-Chun Chiang is professor of flute at the Univ. of Taipei, leader of the Golden Woodwind Quintet, and former dean of international affairs. She studied at National Taiwan Normal Univ. and the Royal Academy of Music, London, with William Bennett. Chiang served as co-principal flute of the Taipei Municipal Symphony, won first prize twice in Taiwan's National Competition, and was a finalist and Audience Prize recipient at the 1987 Japan Flutists Association Competition.

Emma Shubin is a Dalcroze, Suzuki, and Haynes Ambassador Clinician Artist who presents concerts, integrative education, and music and movement workshops worldwide. She is assistant principal flute/piccolo of the Steamboat Symphony, artistic director of the nonprofit Integral Steps, and a PhD candidate at the Univ. of Luxembourg. emmashubin.com

Merrie Siegel Parmley teaches privately and performs in the Puget Sound area with her adult flute ensemble, Tutti Flutti. Her CDs, *Flute Music of the Americas*, Vol. I and Vol. II, are available on streaming services. During summers, she serves as artistic advisor and flutist with Cruzando Fronteras, a consortium of Mexican and German musicians. She joined the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra in 2010 as flute choir conductor. BM, Eastman School of Music; MM and DMA, Rice Univ.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Vanessa Sielert is professor of saxophone at the Univ. of Idaho Lionel Hampton School of Music. Sielert performs widely in jazz and classical genres—founding ensembles, solo, and quartet work—and is a dedicated educator, clinician, and advocate for new saxophone works. BM in music education and saxophone performance, Univ. of Idaho; MM, Baylor Univ.; DMA in saxophone performance, Univ. of Illinois.

Miranda Simison is principal flute of the Quad City Youth Symphony and toured Spain and Portugal with the orchestra this summer. A student of Rose Bishop, she has performed at Interlochen Arts Academy and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Simison has won prizes at the Wisconsin, Iowa, and Eastern Flute Festivals and the Froot Fire Virtual Soloist Competition, and has performed in honor bands throughout Iowa.

The **SIUE Low Flute Collective** is an ensemble within the Southern Illinois Univ. Edwardsville Flute Choir that promotes repertoire for low flutes. The flute choir was founded in 2010 by Shelly Monier and is composed of graduate and undergraduate music students who perform throughout the Edwardsville and St. Louis areas.

Krystine Smith is a board-certified music therapist, RYT-500 registered yoga teacher, and flutist. After serving four years as a U.S. Marine Corps musician, she studied music therapy. Smith is founder of Peak Music and Wellness, LLC, offering music therapy, Guided Imagery and Music, and yoga services in Southwestern VA and virtually. She has presented nationally about music therapy and military populations, mental wellness, and trauma. BM, Univ. of Miami; MA, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

Sarah Smith is a flutist, teacher, and performer based in the Salt Lake area. Principal flute of the Salt Lake Symphony (2007-10), she now performs with the orchestra as a substitute, with the Salt Lake Choral Artists Orchestra, and the Mountain West Flute Orchestra. She has performed at multiple NFA Conventions, appeared as soloist with regional orchestras, and can be heard on the Pixar film *Lemmings*. BM, Univ. of Colorado Boulder; MM flute performance and pedagogy, Brigham Young Univ.

Joanna Soh is a YouTube creator and Flute Center partner. On her channel JustAnotherFlutist, she creates accessible flute reviews to help flutists find the instrument for their needs and budget. With over 50,000 subscribers, she has fostered a community for flutists of all skill levels. She has performed with the Ensign Symphony and Chorus in Seattle. BM, Univ. of British Columbia; MM, San Francisco State Univ.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Victor Somma is a Brazilian flutist and composer based in Belgium since 2012. His work, blending classical traditions with Brazilian folk and ritual influences, has been performed internationally and recognized at festivals. A graduate of KU Leuven/LUCA School of Arts in Belgium and Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, he has collaborated with Egberto Gismonti and Maria João Pires. His album, *Minimal Dreams* (2023), explores flutes and electronics and has been presented at festivals worldwide.

Yuxin Song began studying piano at age 4 and flute at age 8 with Cai Wei at Shenzhen Arts School. She studied at the Shenzhen Arts School in 2018 and with Han Guoliang at the Central Conservatory of Music. Song studies with Renée Krimsier at the New England Conservatory.

Song Zixuan is from China and attends the Yehudi Menuhin School Qingdao.

Song of the Angels Flute Orchestra is a Los Angeles-based ensemble featuring the full flute family, including piccolo, C flute, alto, bass, contrabass, F contrabass, and double contrabass flute. The group performs 8 to 10 concerts each season in the Los Angeles area.

Sonoma State Univ. Flute Choir is composed of current students, faculty, and alumni. The ensemble is dedicated to sharing music with the community by connecting with and performing for local high schools and middle schools.

The **Stanford Flute Ensemble** was founded by Karen Van Dyke in 1996 at the request of the late, eminent flutist Frances Blaisdell. The SFE has been showcased in three NFA conventions, in New York, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas, and has performed in TEDx Stanford.

Isabela Stefanyshyn, Musician 3rd Class, serves as flute Instrumentalist at the U.S. Seventh Fleet Band in Yokosuka, Japan. BM in performance, Univ. of North Texas; MM, Oklahoma City Univ.

Christina Steffen is a musician and educator. She teaches flute at Mesa Community College and is founder and artistic director of Desert Echoes Flute Project. BM and MM in flute performance, Univ. of Arizona. defproject.org and azflute.com

Demi (Baferos) Stevens is the owner of Barcelona Publishers, a press for music therapy students, researchers, supervisors, and clinicians. Her dissertation research led to the creation of the "Flutists Family Tree." Her teachers include Richard Evans, Joyce Catalfano, Melody Jones, Katherine Borst Jones, and Mimi Stillman. Bachelor's degrees, West Virginia Univ. and Capital Univ.; MM musicology, Northwestern Univ.; DMA flute performance, Ohio State Univ.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Kathy Stevens is a retired public school music and secondary mathematics teacher and has taught flute at Harding Univ. She is president of the Hot Springs Flute Ensemble and performs with the Alchemia Flute Ensemble and Saline Symphony. MM and MA in mathematics education, Univ. of Central Arkansas.

Alexa Still has more than 20 recordings and performed as a soloist in 16 countries, including many premieres. She was principal flute of the New Zealand Symphony, taught at the Univ. of Colorado and Sydney Conservatorium, and is now at Oberlin Conservatory. She has received numerous awards, including a Fulbright, Churchill Fellowship, and the 2024 American Prize. Still served as NFA president and program chair. She also writes, rides motorcycles, and cares for old dogs. alexastill.com

Kristen Stoner has taught at the Univ. of Florida for more than 20 years. An advocate for new music, she has performed on six continents and recorded two CDs of 20th and 21st century solo works. Her compositions for flute, alto flute, piccolo, and flute duos are performed worldwide

Jillian Storey is flutist and director of Operations and Marketing for Catchfire Collective. She has performed with various symphonies across the U.S. Her doctoral research, Social Practice Methods in the Applied Flute Studio, won the 2023 NFA Graduate Research Competition. BM, Tennessee Tech Univ, studying with Roger Martin; MM, Baylor Univ., studying with Francesca Arnone, DMA, Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro, studying with Erika Boysen; additional studies with Trevor Wye.

Kelly Sulick (she/her) teaches flute at the Univ. of Virginia and is principal flute of the Charlottesville Symphony. She was a prizewinner in the 2010 NFA Young Artist Competition and is NFA Committees Liaison. Her CD Duo is available on Centaur. BM and BA, Univ. of Michigan; MM, Univ. of Southern California; DMA, Peabody. kellysulick.com

Patricia Surman, Yamaha Performing Artist and Fulbright Scholar, is professor of flute and director of woodwind studies at Metropolitan State Univ. of Denver. A soloist, chamber musician, and clinician, she has performed and taught throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Her recordings include The American Album and New American: Works for Flute and Piano.

Lance Suzuki is a resident artist with Chamber Music Hawaii, president of the Hawaii Flute Society, principal flute and chair of instrumental studies at the Wintergreen Festival, and a digital content creator with more than four million views. He has performed as a soloist and chamber musician at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Marlboro and Bard Festivals. BM, Univ. of Southern California; MM, Manhattan School of Music.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Rachel Swerdlow is a violist in the Seattle Symphony.

Jennifer Szabo is piccolo and third flute with the Northern Neck Orchestra and performs frequently with the Buffalo Philharmonic, Maryland Symphony, Mid-Atlantic Symphony, and Washington Opera Society. As a soloist, she has appeared with the Adelphi Symphony, the George Mason Symphony, and the National Concert Band. Szabo has earned distinction in the Young Artist Competitions of the New York Flute Club, the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," and the Flute Society of Washington.

Chelsea Tanner is a Los Angeles-based flutist, educator, and mindset coach. She teaches at the Colburn Community School and has held visiting faculty positions at Pennsylvania State Univ. and the State Univ. of New York–Potsdam. Former flute lead at tonebase, she helped develop one of the largest online flute learning platforms. Tanner is a Wm. S. Haynes Artist and performs on a custom 14K gold Haynes flute. chelseatanner.com

Alexander Tanouye attends Foothill HS in Henderson, NV. He is a past winner of the NFA High School Flute Choir Competition and several Nevada solo competitions, and was a member of the National Middle School Honor Band for the Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. In addition to studying flute for 12 years, he is a jazz saxophonist and plans to pursue jazz studies in college. Tanouye is a student of Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye.

Oliver Tanouye is principal flute of the Univ. of Hawaii Symphony and Wind Ensemble and recipient of the university's top chamber group scholarship. He performs as a substitute with the Royal Hawaiian Band, teaches private flute lessons, and studies composition. He also arranges works for flute choir and chamber ensembles.

Adrienne Tedjamulia serves as artistic director of Ensemble 126 and maintains a teaching studio in Utah. BM and MM, Brigham Young Univ.; DM, Florida State Univ.

Yamaha Performing artist **Sophia Tegart** is assistant professor of flute at Washington State Univ. and was awarded the 2023 President's Distinguished Teaching Award. As part of the Pan Pacific Ensemble, a wind quintet dedicated to promoting composers from around the Pacific Rim, she has released three albums, *Feng*, *Ironhorses*, and *Ambiguous Traces*, through Albany Records. Tegart performs with the Walla Walla Symphony and the Washington Idaho Symphony. DMA, Univ. of Missouri-Kansas City.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Suzanne Teng is a flutist, composer, educator, and Yamaha Artist specializing in global and low flutes. She and Gilbert Levy have released seven award-winning albums of original compositions, earning Independent Music Awards, Global Music Awards gold medals, and International Acoustic Music Awards. Her playing is featured on hundreds of recordings and film and television soundtracks, including America's Got Talent and the live finale of Survivor. suzanneteng.com

Berta Teodora is an artist-in-residence with Flute Specialists and is based in the metro Detroit area. Teodora is president of the Southeast Michigan Flute Association. BM, Austin Peay State Univ.; MM, Baylor Univ.

The **TTU Flute Choir** is an ensemble of undergraduate and graduate flutists at Texas Tech Univ. which performs repertoire from the standard canon to contemporary works.

Darrin Thaves is instructor of flute at California State Univ., Long Beach, and principal flute of the Northwest Sinfonietta. At CSULB, he leads the University Flute Quartet and Flute Ensemble and teaches woodwind chamber music and private lessons.

The **Crane Flute Ensemble**, based at the State Univ. of New York Potsdam, is composed of music majors. The ensemble is committed to programming works from diverse demographic and cultural backgrounds.

Ebonee Thomas (she/her) is second flute and piccolo of the Dallas Opera. She is assistant professor of flute at the Univ. of Texas Austin and was previously on the faculty of the Univ. of Missouri-Kansas City. Thomas was a fellow of the New World Symphony. She completed her studies at New England Conservatory and Southern Methodist Univ.

Caen Thomason-Redus (he/him) spends his time performing, recording, teaching, brainstorming, fundraising, or driving his kids to rehearsals. He teaches at the Univ. of Michigan-Flint and can be heard on *Fierce Lyricism* and *Subtropical*. His teachers include Leone Buyse, Jeff Zook, Mark Sparks, Candice Palmberg, and Yaada Weber. BM, Univ. of Redlands; MM, Rice Univ. caenthomasonredus.com

James Thompson (he/him) is affiliate professor of flute at Grand Valley State Univ. and holds the third flute and piccolo position with the Symphony of the Lakes. BM, Truman State Univ.; MM, Illinois State Univ.; DA, Ball State Univ.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Shauna Thompson is professor of flute at Texas Christian Univ. and has served as NFA General Competitions coordinator. BM, Texas Tech Univ.; MM and DMA, Univ. of Cincinnati.

Nancy Toff is the author of *Monarch of the Flute: The Life of Georges Barrère*, *The Flute Book*, *The Development of the Modern Flute*, and *Georges Barrère and the Flute in America*. She is archivist and past president of the New York Flute Club. She received the NFA Distinguished Service Award in 2012.

Sierra Tolhurst, from Alberta, Canada, is pursuing an MM in flute performance at the Univ. of Alabama with Diane Boyd Schultz. Her previous teachers include Jeremy Benson and Rebecca Arrensen. BA flute performance, Jacksonville State Univ.

Aimee Toner is a freelance flutist based in New Haven, CT. She performs contracted recitals for the Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York and collaborates with New England-based orchestras and chamber ensembles. Toner teaches flute at the Univ. of Connecticut and Eastern Connecticut State Univ. She is a Wm. S. Haynes Young Artist. Dual BA, Barnard College; MM in flute performance, New England Conservatory.

Nancy Toone is assistant principal flute of the Salt Lake Symphony and Bountiful Philharmonia and a member of The Orchestra at Temple Square. She has served as adjunct faculty of Utah Valley Univ., Utah State Univ., Weber State Univ., and Brigham Young Univ.-Idaho. Toone has directed Davis County flute choirs for over 30 years, working with flutists aged 5-65.

Néstor Torres is a Latin Grammy-winning flutist who blends jazz, classical, and Latin styles. Born in Puerto Rico, he studied at Mannes School of Music and New England Conservatory. With 18 albums, he has collaborated with Tito Puente, Herbie Hancock, Gloria Estefan, and many others, and has performed with major symphony orchestras. His honors include four Latin Grammy nominations, a Grammy nomination, and two honorary doctorates.

Trillium Flute Consort (TFC) is an amateur flute ensemble performing in Portland, OR for over 10 years. There are 7 flutists in the group performing on piccolo, C flute, alto, and bass. Trillium Flute Consort rehearses weekly and presents annual concerts ranging from the Greater Portland Flute Society Flute Fair to the Grotto Festival of Lights. The group is also dedicated to performing in retirement communities year-round.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Jen Trimble Ford (she/her) is a board-certified music therapist and internship director at Mary Cariola Center in Rochester, NY. She works with children and collaborates with universities in clinical supervision and training. She plays piccolo with the Penfield Symphony and Cordancia and previously performed with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and Largely Ludwig. Her teachers include Joanna Bassett, Karin Ursin, Kelly Covert, and Laurie Sokoloff. BM, Ithaca College; MM, Peabody; MS, Nazareth Univ.

Brittany Trotter is assistant professor of flute at the Univ. of the Pacific Conservatory of Music. Her dissertation, *Examining Musical Hybridity and Cultural Influences in Valerie Coleman's Wish Sonatine and Fanmi Imèn*, won the 2020 NFA Graduate Research Competition. BrittanyTrotterFlute.com | IG: [@brittanyflute](https://www.instagram.com/brittanyflute)

Lynn Tsai is a New York-based flutist and educator. A prizewinner in multiple concerto competitions in Nevada, she made her Carnegie Hall debut as a winner of the Artists International Competition. She performs with orchestras throughout the New York metropolitan area and maintains a private flute studio. She holds a DMA in flute performance and studied with Jennifer Grim, Keith Underwood, Andrée Martin, Tara Helen O'Connor, and Carol Wincenc. lynntsai-flute.com

Amy (I-Yun) Tu is a Taiwanese flutist. She performs with the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony, NOVUS NY at Trinity Church, and the Eastern Wind Symphony. Tu teaches at Rowan Univ., maintains a private studio, and serves as NFA secretary (2025-26). BM and MM, Univ. of Cincinnati-CCM.

Olivia Tucker (she/her) is assistant professor of instrumental music education at the Univ. of Utah. She publishes peer-reviewed research and holds a leadership position in the American Educational Research Association. She previously worked at the Univ. of New Mexico and as a band director and flute teacher in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. She studied flute with Leticia Ledesma and Stephen Goacher. BM, Howard Payne Univ.; MM and PhD, Univ. of North Texas.

The **Texas Woman's Univ. and Brookhaven College Flute Choirs** were founded by Pam Youngblood in 1994 and 1985, respectively. Together, the ensembles have performed at three Texas MEA conventions and 10 NFA conventions and presented world premieres of commissioned works by Ink, Hoover, Senchuk, Via, Gunn, Cohen, and Tuttle.

Iva Ugrčić is an international solo artist, entrepreneur, and activist. Founder of LunART and Artistic Wealth Coach, she advocates for women composers through performance, commissions, and education. She has premiered and commissioned more than 50 new works, primarily by women composers, and teaches at Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania and Duquesne Univ.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Jeremy Ulm, native of Phoenix, AZ, is a horn player and teacher based in Charlottesville, VA. He is interim lecturer of horn at the Univ. of Virginia, interim principal horn of the Charlottesville Symphony, third horn of the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas, and principal horn of the Topeka Symphony. He is also a founding member of the State Line Horn Duo, based in Kansas City, MO, and is pursuing a DMA at the Univ. of Missouri-Kansas City.

The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps serves as one of the Army's premier musical organizations. Dressed in uniforms patterned after the American musicians of the Revolutionary War, the unit provides musical support for official ceremonies and events in the Washington, D.C., area.

The **Universal Jazz Flute Big Band (UJFBB)** was formed during the pandemic in 2021 by Yuko Hoshi of Tokyo, remotely bringing together flutists from around the world. Over five seasons, the ensemble created several virtual performance videos available on YouTube. The band performed together in person for the first time at the 2024 NFA Convention in San Antonio.

The **Univ. of Idaho Flute Choir** brings together students from across the U.S. and Latin America studying with Ayca Cetin. Based in Moscow, ID, the ensemble highlights its diverse backgrounds through performances.

The **Univ. of Iowa Flute Ensemble** is composed of graduate students and seniors from the flute studio of Nicole Esposito.

The **UNLV Flute Ensemble**, founded in 2010, presents several concerts each year. Based at the Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, the ensemble has premiered works by Las Vegas composers, including Diego Vega and Jennifer Bellor. Directors include John McMurtery, Cameron McGill, and Olivia Remak.

The **Univ. of the Pacific and California State Univ., Sacramento Flute Choir** is a northern California regional flute ensemble uniting students from these two universities and the Sacramento Youth Symphony, performing together as one collaborative flute ensemble.

The **Univ. of Wyoming Flute Ensemble**, directed by Emilee Ewing with the guidance of Nicole Riner, consists of undergraduate and graduate music students at UW. The ensemble performs throughout the Laramie community and provides music outreach programs for surrounding public schools.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Unseen//Unheard is the low-flute duo of Rose Bishop and Heather Neuenschwander. They released their first, self-titled album in 2025, featuring exclusively newly composed works.

UpTown Flutes, now in its 27th year, actively commissions new works and is dedicated to bringing new music to a wide audience. The ensemble has performed across the country. Its recordings reflect its programming, and its fifth album, *Goin' Uptown*, will be released later this year.

Rena Urso is second flute of the Oakland Symphony and teaches at California State Univ., Long Beach. A Licensed Body Mapping Educator, she presents workshops, masterclasses, and recitals internationally and serves as a training mentor for the Association of Body Mapping Educators. She is also artistic director of *The Complete 21st Century Flutist: The Global Artist* annual summer course in Mondovì, Italy, and a RYT 200 certified yoga instructor and certified meditation instructor. renaurso.com

Fernando Valencia, percussionist and educator, directs the Latin American Music Ensemble at the Univ. of Arkansas. Trained in Colombia, the U.S., and Cuba, he performs regularly with the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas, former principal percussion of Banda Sinfónica Nacional de Colombia, and has appeared with major orchestras and Latin artists. His recordings include Latin Grammy-nominated projects. Valencia is a *Gon Bops* Artist, blending classical, jazz, and Latin percussion traditions.

Lisa Van Dusen is a flutist and pianist in St. Louis, MO where she performs regularly in concert band, community orchestra, and with friends, and works as a piano and Spirio specialist at Steinway Piano Gallery. Her background includes teaching both flute and piano, as well as accompanying work for her students and in schools and churches. She has served in arts administration and editorial roles for several organizations, including the Rochester Flute Association and the Arizona Flute Society.

Karen Van Dyke is an educator, freelance musician, conductor, and clinician. Director of the Stanford Flute Ensemble for 29 years and director of Northern California Flute Camp for 31 years, she has performed with the Berkeley and San José symphonies and served as principal flute of the Anchorage Festival of Music. Her chamber collaborations include Jake Heggie's *Statuesque* with the composer and performances with Jeanne Baxtresser. She served on the 2024 NFA Convention program committee.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Ann Van Kuren is a dancer, choreographer, and teaching artist based in State College, PA. Her work tells stories of people, places, and events through contemporary movement, dance, and sound. A multiple performance grant recipient, Van Kuren has performed internationally as well as domestically as a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts rostered artist and founder of VanDance, Inc.

Rhys Vander Kelen is a student of Dan Parasky, Megan Endsor, and Kelly Zimba-Lukic. He is a member of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony, and has performed with the NFA High School Flute Choir and the Pittsburgh Symphony through their PSO Side-by-Side program. He won the Central Ohio Flute Association Senior Division Solo Competition, the Greater Region of Philadelphia Flute Association Senior High School Solo Competition, and the Woodbridge Concerto Competition.

Deborah Venezia performs with the Forza Wind Symphony, Central Florida Sunshine Flutes, Space Coast Flute Orchestra, Éclectique Trio, and Sestina, and teaches privately. She has twice performed with the Professional Low Flutes Choir at the International Low Flutes Festival (ILFF). Sestina performed at the 2025 NFA Convention, and Sestina Quatro performed at the 2026 ILFF. BA music education, Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.; MM, Mason Gross School of the Arts; MDiv, Drew Univ. Theological School.

The Venezuelan Flute Ensemble is a collective of Venezuelan flutists in the U.S. formed in El Sistema and united through their work with the National Flute Orchestra of Venezuela. The ensemble presents original works inspired by Venezuelan folk traditions.

Ligia Verduga is an Ecuadorian-American flutist and pedagogue. Her teachers include John McMurtery, Lisa Byrnes, and Caitlyn Valovick Moore. Recent achievements include serving as principal flute of the Latin American Orchestra for two consecutive years, performing in Milan and Rome, and presenting a lecture at the 2025 Moyse International Flute Competition in Sofia, Bulgaria. MM, Univ. of Utah; DMA, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Peter Verhoyen is principal piccolo of the Antwerp Symphony, teaches at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp and Kunstuniversität Graz, and organizes the International Flute Seminar Bruges. His internationally recognized recordings have established his reputation as a piccolo specialist.

Pieter-Jan Verhoyen (he/him) is a Flemish pianist, harpsichordist, and fortepianist. He is pianist of the Ryelandt Trio and collaborative pianist at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp. He performs as a soloist, orchestral musician, and accompanist with ensembles across Europe and with an affinity for piccolo and tuba repertoire.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Villa Musica Flute Ensemble, founded in 2005, is composed of amateur, retired, and professional flutists from the San Diego community and performs repertoire in a variety of styles, including classical, jazz, contemporary, and new music. One of Villa Musica's three community ensembles, the VMFE presents four concerts each year.

Erica Vogel is third flute and piccolo of the Dutch Marine Band of the Royal Navy. She has won several prizes in international competitions, including first prize in the 2023 NFA Piccolo Orchestral Audition & Masterclass Competition. BA, Zwolle, Netherlands, with Gudrun Bourel; MM in flute with Aldo Baerten and MA in piccolo with Peter Verhoyen, Royal Conservatoire Antwerp.

Tanja von Arx is a Swiss-Argentinian flutist, chamber musician, actress, and performer. She performs as a soloist with orchestras, gives masterclasses in Europe and Latin America, and premieres works by Latin American and European composers. Von Arx has released recordings of works by J.S. Bach, Astor Piazzolla, Fernando Muslera, and Georg Philipp Telemann. She teaches flute in Chile where she conducts the Orquesta Infantil Juvenil de Máfil (Children's and Youth Orchestra).

Therese Wacker is principal flute of the Altoona Symphony and Keystone Winds and was professor at Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania from 2000-25. MM, Univ. of Wyoming, studies with Katherine Kemler; DMA, Ohio State Univ., studies with Katherine Borst Jones. Her other teachers include Zart Dombourian-Eby, Jan Gippo, and Jack Wellbaum. Wacker has commissioned and premiered several works, written articles for Flute Talk, and contributed to The Complete Piccolo.

Robert Wakeley is a flutist and teacher based in Portland, OR. He performs as second flute of the Rogue Valley Symphony, second flute and piccolo of the Eugene Concert Choir and Orchestra, and substitute with Orchestra Nova Northwest, the Vancouver Symphony, the Helena Symphony, and the Boise Philharmonic. BA, Carleton College; MM, Univ. of Oregon; DMA, Univ. of Minnesota. robertwakeley.com

Maurine Walker is an amateur musician, wife of 23 years, and mother of 7 children. She began piano lessons at age 5 and flute at age 11. After high school, most of her musical activities were through church until she began studying with Ellen Burr. She hosts studio recitals and house concerts with her husband.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Angela Wang attends Diamond Bar HS. She studies with Alexandra Miller and Aaron Goldman, and formerly studied with Jim Walker. In 2025, she was named an NPR From the Top Fellow and received the Jack Smith Memorial Award from the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts. She performed as concerto soloist at Walt Disney Concert Hall, earned top positions in more than four regional and state youth orchestras, and is a five-time CASMEC All-State musician.

Gaby Wang graduated from Inglemoor HS with an International Baccalaureate Diploma. She was a member of the Wind Ensemble and has studied flute for seven years with Elizabeth Jolly. Wang has participated in school flute choirs and pit orchestras and looks forward to performing with other high school students in the NFA High School Flute Choir.

Sophie Wang attends Skyline HS and has played flute for nine years. She performs with the Evergreen Philharmonic and loves playing chamber music. Outside of flute, she enjoys rock climbing and hands-on projects. She is excited to join the 2026 NFA High School Flute Choir.

Victor Wang is principal flute of the Charlotte Symphony. A regular soloist with the orchestra, he won first prize in the 2017 NFA Young Artist Competition. His orchestral experience includes performances with the Boston Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and North Carolina Symphony. Originally from Rochester, NY, Wang is a graduate of Yale Univ., and his mentors include Elizabeth Mann, Ransom Wilson, and Lorna McGhee.

Hallie Ward is a DMA candidate at the Univ. of Southern Mississippi, studying with Danilo Mezzadri. A 2024 concerto competition winner, she has performed nationally and at Carnegie Hall. She holds degrees from Northwestern State Univ. of Louisiana and the Univ. of Arizona.

Alicia Wardell lives in Glendale, AZ, with her husband and three boys. She teaches and freelances in the Phoenix area, performs regularly with DEFProject's Chamber and Flute Choirs, and is principal flute of the Arizona Millennial Choirs & Orchestras. BM and MM, Brigham Young Univ. memyfluteandi.com

Mihoko Watanabe, from Japan, is professor of flute and chair of the Entrepreneurial Music Certificate Program at Ball State Univ. She is principal flute of the Muncie Symphony, performs worldwide as a soloist, chamber musician, and concerto artist, and teaches masterclasses, adjudicates competitions, conducts ethnomusicological research, and leads mindfulness workshops. BM, Musashino Academia Musicae; MM, Eastman School of Music; DMA, Univ. of Michigan. mihokoflute.com



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Lauren Watt (she/her) is NFA Event & Convention Director. She served as Operations & Community Programs director of Chamber Music Northwest. BM, Univ. of Oregon; MM in saxophone performance, Univ. of Wyoming; MS in arts administration and certificate in Nonprofit Management, Univ. of Oregon.

Lyndon Watts is an Australian bassoonist and lecturer at the Univ. of Melbourne. He became principal bassoon of the Munich Philharmonic at age 22 and has since performed in concert halls around the world. Watts is an advocate for contemporary music and composers.

Valerie Watts is professor of flute at the Univ. of Oklahoma School of Music and principal flute of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and New Hampshire Music Festival Orchestra. Her guest residencies include Beijing, China; Natal, Brazil; and Eisenstadt, Austria. A finalist in the 1993 Festivales Internacionales de Flautistas Enterprises, Watts has recorded for the CBS Masterworks, Integra, Naxos, and W.W. Norton labels. BM, Northwestern Univ.; MM and DMA, Eastman.

Anne Weaver and Hans, her contrabass flute, perform regularly with the Fairbanks Flutists in Alaska under the direction of Dorli McWayne.

Dave Weiss is a flutist, world woodwinds player, composer, and video creator. He performs for Broadway, film, and television; credits include *The Lion King*, *Moana 2*, *Riverdance*, *Miss Saigon*, *Into the Woods*, *A Quiet Place Part II*, and Super Bowl commercials. Weiss also creates music videos and teaches at the NYU Film Scoring Program. YouTube: David Weiss Flute. davidweissflute.com

The **Western Flute Ensemble** includes students from the flute studio at Western Washington Univ., directed by Mehrdad Gholami. In recent years, the ensemble has premiered works by composers from Western Washington Univ.

Katy Wherry is a flutist, educator, and coach who performs with the Colorado Symphony and in styles ranging from jazz to pop. She founded Etude of the Week, a global flute community, and leads For the Love of Flute, a coaching program that helps flutists pursue their musical goals with passion and purpose.

Dustin White (he/him) is a flutist and teacher from upstate New York with an interest in performing intercultural flute music and new works by living composers. His principal teachers include John Oberbrunner, Kenneth Andrews, and Nina Assimakopoulos.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Heath White, Sergeant First Class, joined the West Point Band in 2016. Before serving in the Army, he taught middle school band and freelanced, specializing in new music for flute and piccolo. He received the 2021 Colonel Finley R. Hamilton Outstanding Military Musician Award. Outside of work, he enjoys woodworking, cycling, and cooking for his family. BME, Univ. of Nebraska; MM, Indiana Univ.

Joanna White is professor of flute at Central Michigan Univ., principal flute of the Midland and Saginaw Bay orchestras, and records with the Powers Woodwind Quintet and Crescent Duo. She has served the NFA as secretary and on the Performance Health Committee and has written for *The Flutist Quarterly*, including articles on dystonia.

Dietmar Wiesner is a founding member and flutist of Ensemble Modern in Frankfurt, Germany. He has performed throughout Europe and internationally and as soloist with orchestras including the SWR Sinfonieorchester Baden-Baden und Freiburg. He has composed works for theater, radio, and concert performance. He has taught at the Internationale Ensemble Modern Akademie and has been a docent and project leader for education projects at festivals and musical institutions.

Wiesner-Andonovska Duo unites flutists Dietmar Wiesner and Lina Andonovska. Wiesner is a co-founder and flutist of Ensemble Modern whose career has focused on contemporary music, including premieres of works by Helmut Lachenmann, Hans Zender, and Olga Neuwirth. Andonovska performs with Eighth Blackbird. Together they commission, premiere, and perform new works for two flutes, including a 2025 program at Berlin's Unerhörte Musik series.

Brendon M. Wilkins (he/him) is director of the Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble and applied music associate in woodwinds at Colby College. He serves as NFA Jazz Artist/Jazz Flute Masterclass Competition coordinator and as a member of the Jazz Committee. Wilkins won the 2015 NFA Jazz Flute Masterclass Competition and performed with the NFA Jazz Flute Big Band. BM and MM, Univ. of North Texas; DMA, Univ. of Miami. brendonwilkins.com

Ethan Williams is a classical flutist from Stockton, CA. He is pursuing a BM at the Univ. of the Pacific and studies with Brittany Trotter. He is co-principal flute of the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Band and performs in multiple chamber ensembles. In 2025, he won first place in the Sacramento Flute Club Collegiate Competition. In addition to flute, he enjoys composing, playing rhythm games, and racket sports.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Sam Williams is a freelancer and performs as a substitute with the South Dakota, Louisville, and Huntsville symphonies. He is a prizewinner in the NFA Low Flute Artist, Orchestral Audition & Masterclass, and Piccolo Orchestral Audition & Masterclass Competitions, as well as the Florida, Kentucky, and Upper Midwest Flute Society competitions. He was a semifinalist in the 2023 Gazzelloni Piccolo Competition in Naples, Italy. Williams also arranges music for piccolo, alto, and bass flutes.

Darla Wilmot retired after 21 years in U.S. Army bands. During her military career, she played with Tidewater Winds and was flute instructor at the Naval School of Music. She has performed at the Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention and Hampton Roads Flute Faire. Wilmot moved to Georgia in 2020 and performs with the Atlanta Wind Symphony.

Christopher Wilson is coordinator of percussion at Washington State Univ. where he teaches applied percussion, conducts the percussion ensemble, and serves as assistant director of the Cougar Marching Band. He is principal timpani of the Washington-Idaho Symphony and Walla Walla Symphony and president of the Washington Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society. Wilson performs with bassoonist Jacqueline Wilson in Ensemble 337. DA, Univ. of Northern Colorado.

Denise Wilson is a member of the Trillium Flute Consort and has been group leader for 10 years. She studied with Sydney Carlson and Terri Sanchez and has participated in masterclasses with Keith Underwood and Immanuel Davis. Wilson also performs with the Oregon Symphonic Band, where she is flute section leader, under the direction of Michael Burch-Pessus.

Haylie Wilson studies at Northwest Mississippi Community College, where she is principal flute of the Wind Ensemble, Flute Quartet, and flute section leader. She has appeared as guest soloist with Coro Rio, Northwest Women's Choir, and Olive Branch High School choirs. Wilson was selected as first chair flute of the Mississippi Lions All-State Band, performing in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, and at the Mississippi State Band Clinic. She studies with Jennifer Whitehead.

Tyree Wilson, Di Zhao Artist, has performed with the San Gabriel Valley Symphony, COMF Symphony, Opera Maya Festival Orchestra, and Rise Diversity Orchestra. He has reached over 120K followers and 50 million views across Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. He is a prizewinner of the Florida Flute Association Young Artist Competition, Charleston Competition, Birmingham Music Guild, and David I. Martin Guild. Wilson performs on a 9k rose gold Di Zhao flute and rosewood Di Zhao piccolo.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Carol Wincenc is a Grammy and NFA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, 1978 Naumburg Laureate, National Society of Arts and Letters Gold Medalist, and recipient of Manhattan School of Music and Brevard Music Center Distinguished Alumni Awards, and Martha Graham's "Five Fearless Women." Former St. Paul Chamber Orchestra principal flute, she has premiered over 70 works, founded the Creating Resonance Retreat and La Mélodieuse, and has taught at Stony Brook Univ. and Juilliard for over 55 years.

Wind Waves unites six flutist-performers, teachers, composers, conductors, and artistic directors across the province of British Columbia, Canada. The ensemble will present four new selections portraying Canada's Pacific Coast.

Alina Windell teaches flute at the Univ. of West Georgia and the Orfeo International Music Festival. She is principal flute of the LaGrange Symphony, a member of Duo Flautas Frescas, and a regular substitute with the Columbus Symphony and Atlanta Ballet Orchestra. Windell has recorded for Naxos and Centaur Records, which will release her debut album in 2026. She studied at Indiana Univ., Stony Brook Univ., and the Univ. of Colorado. AlinaWindell.com

Dianne Winsor is a flutist and educator based in Arizona. She was the principal flute of Spain's Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León from 1991 to 2021, performing worldwide and recording for Naxos, Deutsche Grammophon, and Decca. She holds degrees from Boston Conservatory and New England Conservatory, where she studied with James Pappoutsakis and Lois Schaefer. DMA, Arizona State Univ.

Ninee Petchprapa Wolff, from Bangkok, Thailand, earned a BA in music with a jazz specialization from Central Washington Univ. and a master's in teaching from Saint Martin's Univ. She studied flute with Hal Ott, jazz saxophone with Tracy Knoop, and additional studies with Zart Dombourian-Eby. Based in Olympia, WA, she performs on flute, piccolo, and saxophone with the Olympia Jazz Senators and Bremerton Symphony and serves as adjunct flute professor at South Puget Sound Community College.

Elizabeth Wolfrey is instructor of flute and piano at Merced College in California. She is principal flute and board secretary of the Merced Symphony and serves as NFA Flute Clubs Committee chair. She previously served as Oklahoma Flute Society Competition and Masterclass chair. DMA, Univ. of Oklahoma.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Lisa Read Wolynech is recently retired as professor of flute at Austin Peay State Univ. in Clarksville, TN. She is principal flute of the Paducah Symphony and Gateway Chamber Orchestra. She served as president, program chair, and competition coordinator of the Mid-South Flute Society. Wolynech premiered Lee Hoiby's Flute Concerto and the triple concerto Prayer and Procession. She directed the William Bennett Summer Flute Academy at Austin Peay for nine summers.

Caroline Wong is a flutist and attorney based in Chicago. She is a first prize winner of the James and Helen Pellerite Orchestral Excerpt Competition, the Accent Music Festival Concerto Competition, and the Univ. of Chicago's Concerto Competition. She has performed at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, the Ravinia Festival, and the Sarasota Music Festival. She is now a litigator at Sidley Austin LLP. BM, Indiana Univ., Juris Doctor, Univ. of Chicago.

Rachel Woolf is assistant professor of flute at the Univ. of Texas - San Antonio. She is a founding member of Duo 彩 AYA, principal flute of the Victoria Bach Festival, and a member of the Polyphonic Spree. She has performed on five continents. Her debut Duo 彩 AYA album, Cycles (Neuma Records), earned two Gold Medals from the Global Music Awards. In 2025, she was named to Yamaha's "40 Under 40" Music Educators.

Adam Workman (he/him), Vermont native, is a lifelong student of the flute. He studied with Jon Landell, Court Gettel, and Louis Moyse; earned his degree at Boston Univ. with Marianne Gedigian, Jacques Zoon, and Linda Toote; and continued his studies with Jim Walker, Paula Robison, and Steven Finley. He founded Flutistry Boston in 2011 and has taught and led workshops blending craftsmanship, performance, and curiosity to support flutists, makers, technicians, and music-preneurs everywhere.

Obadiah Wrynla is a Portland-based bandoneonist who performs regularly with groups throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Ciao Felicia, Cafecito, and Conjunto Berretín. A graduate of the Bard College Conservatory of Music, he studied composition with Joan Tower and George Tsontakis. He began playing tango in 2019 and has participated in workshops including the Stowe Tango Music Festival, Tango for Musicians, and the Tanguero Workshop.

Jessica Wu is a flutist and educator pursuing a DMA at the Univ. of North Texas with Terri Sundberg. She has performed at festivals including Zodiac Music Academy, PRISMA, and Tafelmusik. Her teachers include Peggy Russell, Sergio Pallottelli, Renée Krimsier, and Na'ama Lion. Wu serves as flute choir coordinator for the Texas Flute Society and director of program operations for Through the Staff.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Shun-Wen Wu is associate professor of music education at National Taiwan Normal Univ. She earned a bachelor's in piano, master's in music education, and doctorate in gifted education. Wu has taught secondary music teacher education since 1996. She also teaches in the graduate program for the music education division and serves as a graduate advisor. Her research focuses on teacher education, special learners, music creativity, and arts education for gifted students.

Tze-Ying Wu is associate professor of viola and string education at the Univ. of Kentucky and director of the UK String Project. She founded the Sturgis Music Academy (now ASO String Academy) of the Arkansas Symphony. Wu is board president of the National String Project Consortium. She performs with Formosa Trio and received the 2024 Outstanding Educator Award from the American String Teachers Association, Kentucky Chapter. BFA, National Taiwan Normal Univ.; MM and DM, Indiana Univ.

John Wubbenhorst performs on the Western flute and North Indian bansuri, which he studied with maestro Hariprasad Chaurasia. He is the composer for his ensemble, Facing East.

Yishan Xia is a student in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Pacific Academy in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. She has studied flute with Paolo Bortolussi since 2021 and has placed in the top three multiple times in the junior and intermediate divisions of the British Columbia and Canada West Performing Arts Festivals. Xia also plays piano and placed third in the intermediate piano division of the 2025 Performing Arts British Columbia Festival.

Elena Yakovleva, Musician 1st Class, joined the Navy Band in 2015 as principal piccolo in the Concert Band. Born in Kaliningrad, Russia, she studied in Germany, at Carnegie Mellon with Jeanne Baxtresser, and at Peabody with Marina Piccinini, earning advanced diplomas. A prizewinner in international competitions, she has performed with the Baltimore, Delaware, Maryland, Annapolis, and Mid-Atlantic symphony orchestras and taught at Peabody and the International School of Music.

Kuniko Yamada, born in Tokyo, graduated from the music department of Senszoku Gakuen HS and Senszoku Gakuen College of Music. She completed the college's graduate program and was a research fellow. Yamada has performed as a flute soloist and ensemble musician throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia. She is a lecturer at Senszoku Gakuen College of Music and a member of the Japan Jazz Flute Big Band, Musica Cuore Flute Ensemble, Flute Ensemble ELF, and the flute duo Yamadaya.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Cai-Ling Yang is a BM student at the Univ. of Taipei. In 2025, she was in an exchange program at East Carolina Univ. She received second prizes at the 6th Asia Flute Federation International Flute Competition and 12th Singapore International Flute Competition, and first prize at the 2024 Taipei City Student Music Competition. From 2018 to 2023, she was principal flute and concerto soloist of the Kaohsiung Youth Symphony, and in 2026 toured with the National Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Dean Yang was selected to perform in the High School Soloist Competition masterclass at the 2026 NFA Convention.

Shuhan Yang attends the Central Conservatory of Music Middle School in China. She won second prize in the professional junior high division of the 2025 Atas Cup Chinese Youth Flute Competition and third prize in Category A of the 2024 Anton Eberst International Flute Competition. Yang enjoys music and aspires to a career as a professional flutist.

Rosângela Yazbec Sebba is professor of piano at Mississippi State Univ., where she coordinates the piano area and the Community Music School. Her 2010 CD, *Eight Sonatinas and the Sonata for Piano Solo* by M. Camargo Guarnieri, was the first recording of these works. She is principal pianist of the Starkville Symphony and a Steinway Artist.

Camilla Yoder is an oboist, educator, and reed maker based in Moscow, ID. She joined Univ. of Idaho as a visiting lecturer in 2024. She earned a DMA at the Univ. of Kentucky, where her doctoral research focused on improving double-tonguing pedagogy through Body Mapping and kinesthetic awareness. Yoder performs with regional orchestras and teaches students of all levels.

Sarah Jane Young is professor of flute at Valdosta State Univ. She performs with orchestras throughout Florida and Georgia and enjoys chamber music with friends and colleagues.

Pam Youngblood is director of the School of the Arts and Design at Texas Woman's Univ. in Denton. She is a Phi Kappa Phi Artist, principal flute of the Wichita Falls Symphony, conductor of the TWU/Brookhaven Flute Choir, and a member of the International Flute Orchestra and Metropolitan Flute Orchestra. Her recordings include *Wind Song*, *Sparkle and Wit*, and *Portraits of Richka*.

Katsuya Yuasa has toured as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer throughout the U.S., Europe, South America, and Asia. He is lecturer of clarinet at the Univ. of Idaho and a Concert Artist with the Piatigorsky Foundation. Yuasa has received more than 20 awards, including the Yamaha Young Performing Artist Award and the Mu Phi Epsilon Concert Artist Competition. He has presented masterclasses worldwide, including at Carnegie Hall.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Yue Ning Li is a student from Beijing, China and has been playing the flute for several years. She has participated in various local and national competitions. Li is excited to join the NFA Junior Soloist Competition, learn from international musicians, and perform on a global stage.

Natalie Zeles is a graduate student at the Univ. of North Texas and studies with Terri Sundberg. Zeles won first place in the Kansas Flute Society Summer Flute competition, third place in the Colorado Flute Association Young Artist competition, and third place in the American Virtuoso International Music competition. She has also been a finalist in several collegiate competitions. BM, Univ. of North Texas. MM, Univ. of Colorado Boulder.

Penny Zent, past president of the NFA, retired as station manager of KAMU-FM, Texas A&M Univ.'s NPR affiliate. She is principal flute of the Brazos Valley Symphony, founding member and director of the Brazos Breeze Flute Choir, and music director and concertmaster of the International Flute Orchestra. The IFO has performed throughout North America, South America, Europe, and Asia, and will tour Australia and New Zealand in 2027.

Enyu Zhang is a postgraduate flute student at the Central Conservatory of Music. She has performed at the Great Hall of the People and the National Centre for the Performing Arts. Zhang won second prize in the 2019 NFA High School Soloist Competition, first prizes in the Sweden Northern Online and Rocky Mountain competitions, and top piccolo honors at the Huaxia Cup.

Zhao Jia is a graduate student at the Central Conservatory of Music, where she has studied with Ling Li, Bile Zhang, and Guoliang Han. She earned third prize at the 2024 Moyse International Flute Competition and first prize at the 2025 Asian International Flute Competition in Tokyo, Japan. A three-time recipient of the China National Scholarship, she has been invited to present four recitals in China. BM Central Conservatory

Jeffrey Zheng is a 2026 NFA High School Flute Choir Competition winner.

Jiajie Zheng (he/him) is a flutist from Vancouver, Canada. He studies with Paolo Bortolussi and I-Jeng Yeh and has also worked with Maron Khoury. Zheng is a member of the Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra Symphony Orchestra and performed as concerto soloist after winning the orchestra's concerto competition. He attends Lord Byng Secondary School.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Matthias Ziegler is a flutist whose work encompasses traditional repertoire, contemporary music, classical music, and jazz. Concerto tours have brought him to the U.S., Japan, Australia, South America, and Israel. His recordings document his inclusive musical interests.

Ben Zielinski is a BM student at Lawrence Univ. Conservatory of Music and studies with Erin Lesser. He is the first flutist to advance to the finals of the Donald Runnicles Musical Arts Scholarship Competition and earned second prize. He served as principal flute of the 2025 Montana Youth Symphony and performs with the Lawrence Univ. Wind Ensemble and Flute Ensemble. He has also appeared in the Conservatory's New Music Series. Zielinski previously studied with Kirsten McGlynn and Joanna Berg.

Stuart Zobel is a guitarist and composer specializing in Latin American music. He is a member of Cafecito, which performs tango and choro, and also performs regularly at Tango Happy Hour. Zobel has presented residencies and workshops at festivals, schools, and colleges, including the Berkeley Choro Festival and Wintergrass. He teaches guitar and music theory, has designed music classes for Path with Art, and has composed for theater and independent films.

Farah Zolghadr (she/her) is instructor of flute at the Univ. of Illinois Springfield. She earned a DMA at the Univ. of Miami as a Henry Mancini Fellow. While pursuing an MM at the Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, she won the Concerto Competition performing Liebermann's Piccolo Concerto. Zolghadr has performed with the Illinois, Jacksonville (IL), Quincy, and Miami symphony orchestras and Florida Grand Opera. Her primary teachers include Trudy Kane, Jennifer Grim, and Andrea Graves.

Victoria Zong attends Westlake HS. She began flute studies at age 9 at the Colburn School with Karen Lundgren and with Caitlin Boruch. As a two-time winner of the RCM National Gold Medal award, she has performed at Carnegie Hall twice. She has completed RCM levels 5, 6, and 8 and CM levels 3, 5, 8, and 10. Zong was first chair in the Ventura County Honor Band for four years and has been principal flute of the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra since 2023.

Laurel Zucker is professor emeritus at California State Univ., Sacramento, where she received the President's Award for Creative & Scholarly Research. A Juilliard graduate, she studied with Samuel Baron. Her compositions are published by Theodore Presser, Alry Publications, Cayambis Music Press, Subito Music, Lyra Music, and Bourne Music Company and are recorded on Cantilena Records. She teaches and performs each summer at the InterHarmony Music Festival in Acqui Terme, Italy.



2026 NFA Performer Biographies

Francely Zurita, from Monterrey, Mexico, specializes in Baroque flute and early music. She studied flute performance in Mexico and Lyon, France, with Sophie Dufautrelle. She earned degrees in early music (traverso) with Serge Saitta and in music pedagogy, with a focus on Dalcroze Eurhythmics, at the Haute École de Musique de Genève. Zurita taught in Geneva and Lyon and presents workshops in early music and Dalcroze pedagogy. She recently moved to Portland.

Lauren Zwonik is operations manager of the Virginia Symphony and adjunct professor of flute at Batten Univ. She has performed and taught throughout the U.S., South America, Europe, and Africa. BM, State Univ. of New York at Potsdam; MM, West Virginia Univ.; DMA, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas.