



## Member Profile: Katie Cooper, Musician and Wind Repair Technician

Website - [www.windsmithmusic.com](http://www.windsmithmusic.com)

E-mail - [katie@windsmithmusic.com](mailto:katie@windsmithmusic.com)

Go to Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/rainingflutesandoboes> for videos of projects she is working on, and unusual things that she runs across, etc.

### Katie's Background



Meet Katie Cooper, a long time GPFS member/commercial member. Katie is one of those talented musicians who plays the oboe, flute, clarinet, saxophone and bassoon. She is also a long-time certified wind repair technician who is based in Philomath, OR (near Covallis and OR State University). She does repairs for wind players throughout and beyond the region. Her primary instruments she enjoys playing right now are the flute and oboe. Though, she loves playing the saxophone in musicals!

Katie describes herself as from a musical family. Her father, from South Africa, played the flute and led a very musical life in his country. He started his children on the recorder in early elementary school and taught them to read music. She also had an uncle, his wife and their son who sang in the opera. She grew up surrounded by music in her family.

**In the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, her dad insisted she take up the oboe, but by high school she was bored so one summer she picked up her dad's flute and has been playing the instrument since!** She describes herself as largely self-taught at the flute, having never taken flute lessons.



After high school, she went into the dental area and became fascinated by the equipment, discovering she had a curiosity and technical aptitude for small technical equipment and repair. This motivated her to go to repair school and serve in an apprenticeship on the weekends.

She

mastered her basic technician skills in Minnesota, studying at Red Wing Technical College - which is now part of the Minnesota state system of schools – and graduated in 1996. “I loved playing music but didn’t want to make my living at it.”



Moving to Santa Barbara and then Santa Cruz, she continued with mentorships the next couple of years

until 1999 when she started The Windsmith in San Diego. She had the shop nine years during which time she also celebrated the birth of her daughter Sophie.

*For 27 years, from Minnesota to California, Colorado to Oregon, Katie has enjoyed repairing musical instruments. An avid musician herself, she pays great attention to detail in all of her fixes and loves to see the joy on the faces of her customers when their instrument plays as though it were brand new again.*

*During this time, Katie has done exceptional work on a variety of instruments from the San Diego, San Jose, Steamboat Springs, Oregon, and Newport Symphonies. She is Straubinger Certified since 2004 and cares for every instrument as though it were her own. (windsmith.com)*

Life took her back to Colorado where she was a stay-at-home mother for a while. It was during this time that her and her then husband set-up their at-home woodwind and brasswind repair shop.

So how after all of this did Katie end up in Oregon? Apparently, her daughter Sophie’s awesome godmother lived in Oregon and she would host Sophie for the summer – affectionately referred to as “godmother camp.” Katie soon realized that Oregon had more of what she valued and wanted for her and her family’s life. She loved the cultural diversity and the outdoors.



Having finally “arrived home” in Oregon, in 2012, she again opened up her repair business, this time initially through Gracewinds, a music company since out of business. Since then, she has moved back to solely wind instrument repair as an independent, Philomath-based business.

She loves playing in area community bands and musicals. Her most recent musical engagement was Sweeney Todd, a local production. “I like doing musicals. I have found the place I belong.

## A Look at Katie’s Performance Life

- Past Oboe – LaJolla Symphony, Grossmont Symphony, San Diego Wind Ensemble
- Past Oboe & Flute – Steamboat Symphony Orchestra (Steamboat, CO)
- Current Oboe – Clocktower Wind Orchestra, [Salem Symphonic Winds](#) with flutists and GPFS members Alicia Rasmussen and Pippa Randall, and the [Willamette Valley Symphony](#) with flutists Susan Gillespie, Julie Rodgers, and Marvel Vigil.
- She also currently plays oboe with [Windswept Woodwind Quintet](#) with flutist and GPFS member Melanie Sorenson, bassoonist Kerry Mammone, David Sorenson on French horn, and clarinetists Andy Nelson/Emily Looney.



## GPFS 2022-2023 Program Sponsors

*The Greater Portland Flute Society thanks our Sponsors for their extraordinary support! Please show your appreciation by giving them your patronage.*



[Brannen Brothers Flutemakers, Inc.](http://Brannen Brothers Flutemakers, Inc.)  
58 Dragon Court  
Woburn, MA 01801-1014  
781-935-9522, [brannen@brannenflutes.com](mailto:brannen@brannenflutes.com)



[Canter Flute Repair](http://Canter Flute Repair)  
*Flute Repair Specialists*  
Beaverton, OR  
Straubinger & Muramatsu Certified  
JS Engineering Gold Pads  
971-266-4096



[Carolyn Nussbaum Music Company](http://Carolyn Nussbaum Music Company)  
625 Digital Drive, Ste 300  
Plano, TX 75075  
972-985-2662, 877-FLUTE4U (toll free)  
[info@flute4u.com](mailto:info@flute4u.com)  
[Watch video](#)



[Flute Center of New York](http://Flute Center of New York)  
307 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. #401  
New York, NY 10001  
212-307-9737, [info@flutecenter.com](mailto:info@flutecenter.com)  
[Watch video](#)

## GPFS 2022-2023 Program Sponsors

*The Greater Portland Flute Society thanks our Sponsors for their extraordinary support! Please show your appreciation by giving them your patronage.*



[FLUTEWORKS Seattle LLC](#)  
[Facebook Page](#)  
781-526-3677, [fluteworks@gmail.com](mailto:fluteworks@gmail.com)  
By appointment only  
[Watch video](#)



[Keefe Piccolo Company](#)  
<http://www.keefepiccolo.com/>  
54 Church Street  
Winchester, MA 01890  
781-369-1626  
[jim@keefepiccolo.com](mailto:jim@keefepiccolo.com)



[Ted Brown Music](#)  
6228 Tacoma Mall Blvd  
Tacoma, WA 98409  
800-562-8938  
253-272-3211  
[sales@tedbrownmusic.com](mailto:sales@tedbrownmusic.com)


## GPFS 2022-2023 Commercial Members

*The Greater Portland Flute Society also thanks our Commercial Members for their support! Please show your appreciation by giving them your patronage.*



### Burkart

2 Shaker Road, #D107  
Shirley, MA 01464  
978-425-4500  
[burkart.com/contact](http://burkart.com/contact)



### Miyazawa Flutes

Miyazawa - USA  
1214 5th Street, Coralville, IA 52241  
1-800-967-6733  
[info@miyazawa.com](mailto:info@miyazawa.com)



Professional Woodwind Repair  
Straubinger Certified  
Flute & Double Reed Specialist

119 Neabeack Hill Dr, Philomath, OR 97370  
Contact: Katie Cooper, 541-760-8865  
[katie@windsmithmusic.com](mailto:katie@windsmithmusic.com)  
*By appointment only.*



### Pro Flutes

678 Sperber Lane  
Grand Junction, CO 81506, 970-242-9364  
(formerly Sherry Lee Flutes)  
[info@proflutes.com](mailto:info@proflutes.com)



### Flute World

29920 Orchard Lake Rd.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
248-855-0410, [flutes@fluteworld.com](mailto:flutes@fluteworld.com)



GPFS is also a proud and grateful recipient of an Oregon Arts Commission grant – 2022.

## GPFS 2022-2023 Commercial Members

*The Greater Portland Flute Society also thanks our Commercial Members for their support! Please show your appreciation by giving them your patronage.*



Wm. S. Haynes Co.  
68 Nonset Path, Acton, MA 01720, USA  
978-268-0600



Sankyo Flutes  
1212 5th Street, Coralville, IA. 52241  
888-899-5747  
[info@sankyoflutes.com](mailto:info@sankyoflutes.com)

# Gratitude