

Musician Profile: Rebecca Olson



Tell us a little bit about yourself and your life as a musician.

Life is busy, and involves lots of scheduling, rescheduling, and driving! Teaching flute lessons is a big part of my life, and I love it! Southwest Washington is my main teaching location, and I teach all ages. (My oldest student is an octogenarian, and she is very inspiring!) I teach at Music World in Hazel Dell and Battle Ground, and I work with the flutists at Hockinson High School and the Junior Symphony of Vancouver. This school year I am teaching at Pacific University in Forest Grove, as well. In addition to teaching, I am a freelance performer. I regularly perform with the Sunnyside Symphony and the Vancouver Master Chorale. I am involved in a number of chamber groups, such as the Sirens trio (flute, oboe, piano), the Oregon Chamber Players Quartet (flute, oboe, viola, cello), and the Con Grazia Wind Quintet.

What is on your music stand these days?

I am brushing up on my orchestral excerpts (using Jeannie Baxtresser's book), and Mozart's Concerto in G Major.

Who is your favorite flutist these days?

Emmanuel Pahud! My students are all aware of this! My recent favorite flute quote from him is - "Remember, it's a wind instrument, not a lip instrument!"

Why are you a member of GPFS?

I love being able to keep up on the flute scene in the area. There are so many great flutists here in Portland and so many concerts! I enjoy being able to recommend Greater Portland Flute Society events to my students! I have been involved with the GPFS ever since I moved to the area with my family when I was in high school. I have benefited from all the wonderful opportunities the GPFS provides!

What kind of flute(s) do you play?

A 15/85 Brannen with a Lafin head joint. This instrument was a gift from my mom.

Favorite book you have read or movie you have seen lately? Or, what do you like to do when you are not making music?

When I am not making music, I am babysitting Oregon Symphony member's children, baking, tending to my flower garden, going to car shows and auto part swap meets with my husband or just relaxing at home with a book, a cup of tea, and my 19 year old, 3-legged kitty on my lap! Right now, I am reading "Gone with the Wind." With the amount of time I get to relax, it's going to take a while to read all 1000 of those pages!

What else would you like to share with GPFS members?

I began college as a pre-med student at Central Washington University and really had no intention of having a musical career, but it was obvious to me after my first quarter that my music classes were more interesting and more exciting! Unfortunately, I did not see any real way of making a living with music, so I continued the pre-med path while taking as many music classes as I could. After earning my biology degree, I decided to go back and finish my Music Performance degree, and then a Masters in Pedagogy and Performance. I owe much to my flute professor, Dr. Hal Ott!

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“Music is the universal language of mankind.”
— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“Music can change the world.” — Ludwig van
Beethoven

“For me, there is something primitively
soothing about this music, and it went straight
to my nervous system, making me feel ten
feet tall.” — Eric Clapton

“Music is the divine way to tell beautiful,
poetic things to the heart.” — Pablo Casals

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“Music enhances the education of our children by helping them to make connections and broadening the depth with which they think and feel. If we are to hope for a society of culturally literate people, music must be a vital part of our children’s education.”

Yo-Yo Ma

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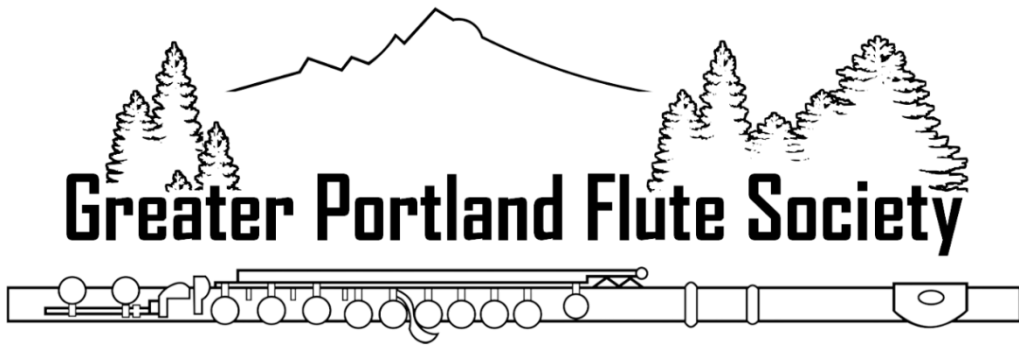
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