

Musician Profile: Flutist [Dr. Sophia Tegart](#)

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Sophia is a [Yamaha Flutes Performing Artist](#)



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

I am the flute professor at Washington State University. I love teaching at a university because I get to regularly play chamber music, gig in the orchestral world, give recitals, have access to a state-of-the-art recording studio, and best of all I get to teach wonderful flutists pursuing degrees in music. It's the perfect hodgepodge position for someone like me who likes to do it all. WSU has also given me a chance to travel and perform all over the world, most recently Thailand and Malaysia, and to take some of my flute students to Italy (2019 and again this next summer!). Before moving to Pullman, WA, where WSU is located, I was living and teaching in the Portland area. Prior to that I was working on my doctorate in Kansas City, MO, a city I miss terribly. I attended the University of Oregon for my master's degree and I'm originally from Spokane, Washington. I'm very excited to be back near my hometown so I can give back to the community that fostered my musical career so much.



What projects are you involved with now that particularly excite you?

The [Pan Pacific Ensemble](#), a wind quintet I'm in, is very active performing in Asia and the US. We have been to China, Thailand, Malaysian Borneo, and in November we'll be in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, we also have plans to go to Korea next summer. Some of the projects we

have include commissions from composers and premiering and recording those works. So far, we have released 3 albums (they can be found on Apple Music and Spotify), and we are in the process of planning our fourth. This year, I'm also working with my WSU bassoon colleague Dr. Jacqueline Wilson (Yakama Nation) on a recording project that features new works by Māori composers of New Zealand. In fact we just got back from a tour in North Carolina with that program!

What's on your music stand these days?

I have several concerts coming up this fall with a wide variety of music. I've been working on some newly commissioned quintets by Malaysian and Cambodian composers for the Kuala Lumpur trip. I'm excited to perform some wonderful works by composer Shuying Li when she is a composer-in-residence at WSU this fall.

I am also performing a new commission for two flutes and wind ensemble "Cuando Hablan los Vientos" by Arturo Rodriguez with my flute bestie Dr. Jonathan Borja and the **WSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble on November 29.** You can tune in via YouTube @WSUPullmanMusic.

For my faculty recital on January 11, I'll be performing Mel Bonis' Sonata, Valerie Coleman's Fanmi Imen, Clara Schumann's Three Romances, and a new commission by UK-based composer Angela Slater called "As if in Memory" which recalls the presence of birdsong during pandemic by using bird calls from both the UK and the US as musical material and a bridge between what we heard during those initial days of lockdown when the fast-paced world had quieted and nature was easier to hear.

What music have you played recently or recordings have you listened to that you'd like to share with GPFS members?

If you don't know the following women composers, I recommend listening to their music: Emilie Mayer, Anna Bon, Ruth Gipps, and Maria Szymanowska. They didn't necessarily write a lot of music for flute, but they wrote many lovely works that are worth a listen. Plus, these are the women that paved the way for every woman composer today- their voices should be heard and celebrated!

Who is your favorite flutist these days?

I love Emily Beynon because of her vibrato exercises and her phrasing, Emmanuel Pahud because he can do it ALL and sound so amazing, and Mark Sparks because his phrasing and sound give me something to aspire to when I'm practicing. They are all different players and I love what they bring to the flute world.

Why are you a member of GPFS?

I am a member because I wanted to stay connected with the wonderful flutists in the Portland area after I left to teach WSU. I spent 5 years in Portland and got to know so many wonderful people. I didn't want to miss out on hearing about their projects.

What kind of flute(s) do you play?

I'm a Yamaha Performing Artist so I exclusively play Yamaha piccolos, flutes, altos, and basses. I love how easy they are to play, and I love the extra sparkle that accompanies their sound.

Favorite book you've read or movie you've seen lately?

I'm a big reader so it's hard to pick just one book (cliché but accurate statement). With that said, the books that I seem to recommend a lot are Educated, Song of Achilles, The Nightingale, Normal People, The Kite Runner, and for something more lighthearted to offset the emotional turmoil from those books, As You Wish: Inconceivable Tales from the Making of the Princess Bride.

What else would you like to share with GPFS members?

I was GPFS president for one year before I moved to WSU, but during that time I spearheaded the process of naming the newsletter! **The Portland Piper is my legacy and I love it!**

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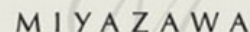
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