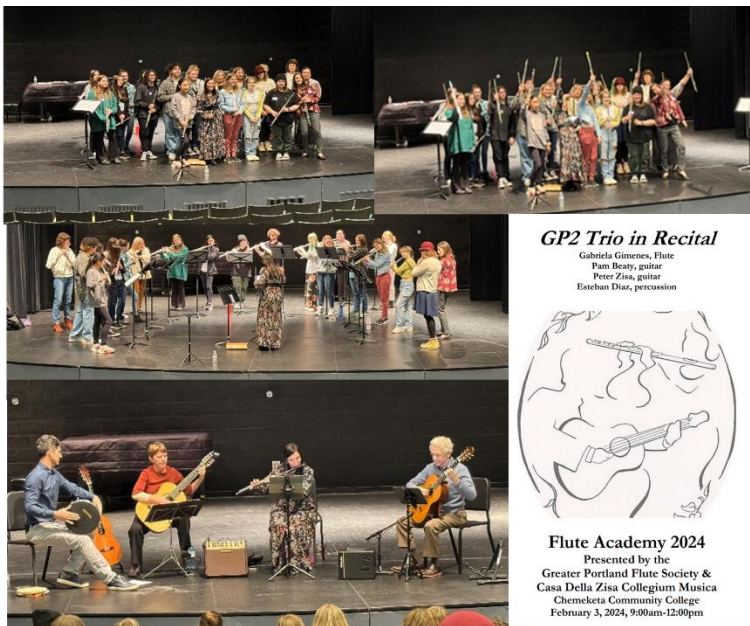




## Reflections on the Annual GPFS Mid-Valley Flute Academy with Guest Artist Gabriela Gimenes

By Emily Stanek

This event was co-sponsored by Casa Della Zisa Collegium Musica.



The GPFS sponsored Flute Academy in Salem is an annual event that brings together local students and teachers for a day of performing, workshops, recitals, playing together and a masterclass with a guest artist.

The Flute Academy is aimed specifically at mid-valley middle and high school students. However, flutists of all ages and levels are welcome to attend.

This half-day event gives students a chance to perform, receive feedback from a professional flutist, learn a new skill in the workshops, network with peers, and play in Flute Academy Flute Ensemble.

**On Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, 25 flutists gathered to enjoy another GPFS Flute Academy at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, with guest artist, Dr. Gabriela Gimenes.**

We had an inspiring morning playing flute choir music together, learning a new fun way to warm-up, and listening to Dr. Gimenes and her excellent ensemble play a variety of South American music, rich in color and rhythmic energy.

A typical flutist, classically trained, can sometimes become so focused on the perfection of the notes, the literal black-and-white dots we see, that we can become a bit rigid when warming up. Dr.

Gimenes opened our eyes to warm-up in a freer manner. She encouraged us to play first from the

heart, choosing a song we love (she loves to warm-up with her favorite hymns), but only for a few minutes and then moving on. Marcel Moyse's half-note long tone exercise from *De La Sonorite* is known to all of us. Dr. Gimenes had us warm-up with a similar exercise called the One Note Samba, with an app called, Ireal Pro and Ebatuque (<https://en.e-batuque.com/>) We played long tones with various chord progressions through a variety of South American rhythms. She encouraged us to improvise with these rhythms in Ireal Pro and pointed to various students to explore improvisation while the rest of us played through the long tone exercise. The freedom of improvisation was eye-opening to many of those gathered. With Dr. Gimenes's energy and joy-filled examples, we all grew in that moment.

The first flute choir piece we played was an arrangement by Paul Morgan called Brazilian Folk Song, "Na Babia Tem". A song that Gabriela sang and learned as a child in Brazil. Next, we played a South American inspired, *All About That Bass*, arrangement for flute choir. That perhaps might be the first thing we remember when thinking about Flute Academy 2024.

Another highlight of Flute Academy 2024, was the performance by Dr. Gimenes and her GP2 Trio. They played a variety of Latin American music. To show us that we can be freer in Bach, Gabriela played a couple movements of two beloved J.S. Bach pieces. The rhythmic energy of the trio, along with the rich colors of Gabriela's flute, made for a truly inspiring close to Flute Academy 2024.

**A special thanks to @casa della zisa for sponsoring this concert with Dr. Gabriela Gimenes, Pam Beaty and Peter Zisa on guitar and Esteban Diaz, on percussion.**