



A Message from Your GPFS Board – A Reflection on the Last Couple Years Accomplishments

Presented by Donna Schmidt



Donna Schmidt has been active in GPFS for 17 years. Presently, she serves on the Board as publicity and social media officer. She is a longtime member of Rose City Flute Choir, a pickleball fanatic, Zumba enthusiast, and loves volunteering at her granddaughter's elementary school.

As many of you know, GPFS is an organization run entirely by volunteers. These are dedicated, committed members whose volunteer planning and work, publically and behind the scenes, make possible the programs and resources available to our members and potential members.

We are proud of the diversity in our ranks, from professionals to amateurs, students from middle school to graduate programs, private studio teachers to college professors, composers and arrangers, ensemble and choir leaders, and more.

GPFS Board goals include running a tight ship financially, while bringing affordable programs and events to our members, meaningful outreach in our communities – from schools to retirement homes – and keeping membership costs and program fees affordable.

Like you, we were gobsmacked when the world shut down more than two years ago to grapple with a menacing and formidable virus we now casually refer to as Covid. It was a struggle for us, too, as we plotted – and plodded – to keep GPFS relevant in a time filled with uncertainty. So, we got busy and went to work for GPFS – on Zoom. And, boy, at least in our minds, we got a lot done. I want to share some of that work with

you.

- First, as you know, Flute Fair is our signature event, and Covid-19 knocked us off the stage just a few weeks shy of the 2020 program featuring the much sought-after Valerie Coleman. But it also led us to opportunities we had never considered. It was her graciousness and hard work that let us bring her to you for our first Virtual Flute Fair last year.

- The new year, 2022, left us no choice but to keep Flute Fair online, despite the easing of pandemic protocols shortly before the event. Yet, what a memorable occasion for those who attended to enjoy and learn from another gracious and incredible flutist – Gareth McLearnon. His creative work for us, from France and Italy, truly made this year’s Flute Fair a noteworthy experience. Gareth’s Friday evening performance was interactive and intimate, and the program was just stunning.

There’s More, Flute Fair isn’t all we’ve been up to!

- We continued our Fall Guest Artist program, bringing you great strategies for playing and practicing with Paul Edmond-Davies from England, and the inspiring Mihoko Watanabe – all the way from Muncie, Indiana – who shared her deep understanding of the beautiful Japanese piece, *Mei*.
- We awarded 11 young, dedicated flute students with scholarships and study grants, to help offset economic difficulties and allowed them to continue private lessons with GPFS member teachers.
- We maintained our instrument loan program to ensure that students, who might otherwise be financially unable to buy, had an instrument to keep playing.
- We keep school band directors in the loop for opportunities for their flute students.
- We keep an up-to-date list of area flute teachers. If you’re looking for lessons, look at that list on the website.
- We took a thorough inventory of our extensive sheet music lending library, free to members, and updated its offerings. We also took the opportunity to weed out duplicates and are giving them to teachers and others who can put them to good use.
- We are working to revive a member’s recital, perhaps in a new format, to give ensembles and soloists more performance opportunities.
- We created and continue to offer an annual Flute Academy in the Mid-Valley area to give middle- and high-school students, as well as others, educational programs, and masterclasses, with talented Oregon professionals in our own backyard.
- Our Young Artist Competition, also for middle- and high-school flutists, started just a few years ago, is alive and well. We named the winners and let you see their talent for yourselves in their performance videos that capped Flute Fair. (Additionally, they are highlighted elsewhere in this issue of the Piper.)
- We rebranded our newsletter, The Portland Piper, into a comprehensive, bi-monthly electronic magazine chock-full of resources and articles – even book and music reviews – all available to you. It’s not something to simply peruse and be done – but a lasting resource of information and opportunities a click away, now or later, for our members.
- We’ve worked to keep you informed and engaged with information about workshops, masterclasses, and other flute-related offerings by NFA, other nonprofits and colleges and universities.

- We've kept our communications channels open through our website, email, Facebook, and recently added Instagram to the toolbelt.
- We rebranded and completely revamped our website and created a new logo.
- Most recently, we launched First Tuesday with GPFS, an online series of performances, workshops and presentations for our members – by our members. We have two behind us – both well-received – through the generosity of Powell Flutes Artist Amelia Lukas; and Alicia DiDonato Paulsen, assistant principal of the Oregon Symphony. On deck May 3 is an ensemble showcase featuring Rose City Flute Choir. Member Donna Maebori, a retired physical therapist and Feldenkrais certified flutist, joins us in June. This monthly event, from 7 to 8 p.m., is free to members. Just register to get the link.

That's most of it – in a nutshell. We think it's a lot. It's available. It's accessible. I want you to know that behind each of these things I've mentioned, there is a person or persons working together in effort and volunteer spirit.

If you are a member, we encourage you to take advantage of your organization. And to be involved. Offer your expertise, participate, attend, share ideas, donate time or money, let us know how we're doing. If you're not a member, consider joining this active, dynamic group of flute lovers.

On behalf of the GPFS Board of Directors, its committees and other volunteers and supporters, we thank you for your membership, your support, and your patience. We look forward to bringing us all together again – in person – in the months ahead.

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GPFS acknowledges with gratitude the many years of support from our [Sponsors and Commercial Members](#). It is because of their excellence that the GPFS mission can excel and celebrate our 44th year of extraordinary programming for the greater Portland area, including hosting visiting artists and local events, student study grants and a range of other resources for members and the community of flutists at large.

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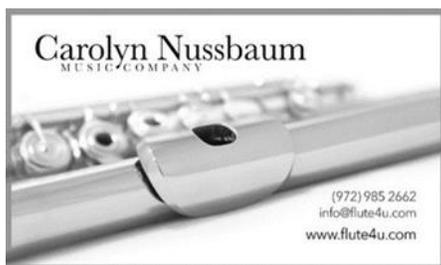
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