

Musician Profile – Flutist Elaine Martir



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

I am a proud Latina; a first-generation Peruvian, Puerto Rican American, born in New Jersey. I grew up in a loud household that spoke both Spanish and English, and because of this, some of my first memories are surrounded by Peruvian Música criolla and Salsa. The first memory I have of hearing the flute is Néstor Torres's electrifying solo on the Estefano/Gloria Estefan track "Mi Tierra" and instantly falling in love with the vibrant, shimmering sound. My mother exposed my brother and me to many musical genres as children, and through her actions, music became a beloved life partner. My musical studies have taken me from the East Coast to the West Coast, and I am surprised at how much I love the change! I have earned my Bachelor's in flute performance from West Chester University under the tutelage of Dr. Kimberly Reighley, a Master of

Music in performance from The Boston Conservatory with contemporary and BMOP flutist Sarah Brady, and a Master of Arts in Music from Washington State University, with GPFS member, Dr. Sophia Tegart. I am currently a 3rd-year DMA student in flute performance at the University of Oregon, and the Flute Studio graduate employee, under the mentorship of Dr. Jacqueline Cordova-Arrington. Since moving to Eugene in 2021, I have had wonderful opportunities to perform with the Eugene Symphony Orchestra, Eugene Concert Choir, Oregon Mozart Players, Eugene Opera, and be an Orchestra Next flute fellow for the 2022-2024 season. Last April, I had the honor of winning the University of Oregon concerto competition and performing Michael Daugherty's "Trail of Tears" with the UO Symphony Orchestra to a full house...a performance I won't forget in my lifetime. I love collaborating with musicians from all walks of life and simply enjoy making music with others. It is one of the best ways to connect with folks when words can fail us.

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



I am so excited to present at the GPFS Flute Fair with my life and musical partner, composer Kevin Kopsco. The two pieces written by Kevin that I will be premiering are titled **Extrication; Integration for Flute and Fixed Electronics** and **A Lot for Flute and Visual Media**. Both pieces express perspectives of a personal healing

journey through a neurodivergent lens, and the emotion we experience as we feel, process and move forward through life. We are also working on recording a solo album of meditative electronica that features the flute, alto flute, bass flute and quena. Wednesday is one of my favorite days of the week, as for the past 2 years I have had the joy of directing the West Winds Flute Choir. The group was founded in Autumn of 1999 by flutist and teacher, Lee Ann Sterling and is made up of amateur and student flutists from Eugene/Springfield area. We have our next concert April 3rd at the Willamette Oaks Senior Residence - the group has been working very hard and I am so excited to share our music making with the community!

What's on your music stand these days?

As I glance over to my music stand, I can see my well-loved T&G shyly peaking from the back of my last practice pile. Next to the worn book, sticking out from the other side, are my physical therapy stretches that have been aiding in my recovery from a recent shoulder strain. On the floor just next to my stand is the book *Alexander Technique for Musicians* by Judith Kleinman and Peter Buckoke, which has been a great tool for me since it was introduced to me by specialist Debi Adams at Boston Conservatory. Here is your friendly reminder to check in on what your body is doing while you are practicing and performing, and don't forget to stretch before, during and after each session! Getting back to what's on the literal and proverbial stand: I am working on my upcoming DMA graduate recital program which includes the *Ballade* by Albert Perillhou, *Chant de Linos* by André Jolivet, *Mnicakmun (Sound of Water)* by Linthicum-Blackhorse, *Three Romances Op. 22* by Clara Schumann and *Extrication; Integration* by Kevin Kopsco.

Who is your favorite flutist these days?

Ooh, ask me this next month, and it'll be another answer! I tend to be drawn to different flutists depending on the repertoire that I'm working on or researching. As of late, I've been super inspired by recordings and YouTube tutorials from flutists Emily Beynon and Adam Walker.

Why are you a member of GPFS?

I joined GPFS after I moved cross country from New Jersey to Eugene in hopes of finding a network of flutists. I was overjoyed when I attended my first GPFS Flute Fair last year and had the

chance to perform for Zart Dombourian-Eby in the masterclass! The members of the GPFS that I met were so welcoming and kind, and through networking (Thanks, Natalie Van Slyke!) I was able to meet and connect with more stellar flutists and Portland composer, Deena Grossman, which led to an incredible recording project to be released in the Fall. The events that GPFS offers are wonderful sources of learning, connection and inspiration!

What kind of flute(s) do you play?

I currently play on a Haynes Q3 flute with a 14k rose gold head joint. My piccolo is a Burkart Resona and for my upcoming GPFS fare presentation, I'll be performing on a Jupiter 500 Alto flute.

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

I have a deep respect and passion for the healing power of nature. When I am not teaching, researching or in practice mode – and there are no torrential downpours – I am almost always outside hiking with my partner and our two adventure cats, Momo and Scarlett. Visiting the gorgeous and rugged Oregon coast is exceedingly rejuvenating for me, especially during the end of term weeks at UO. When I am not outside, I can be found cooking some of my favorite traditional meals – taught to me by my late effervescent grandmother Mama Lola – such as; Lomo Saltado, Guiso de Pollo or Bistec Encebollado.

Accompanying these meals is always music by Eva Ayllon, Chabuca Granda, El Grand Combo, Susana Baca, Hector Lavoe, Johnny Pacheco, Néstor Torres and Oscar de Leon – with some silly carefree dancing with my partner.



What else would you like to share with GPFS members?

A huge THANK YOU to BJ Nicoletti for their wonderful work with The Portland Piper, and to you all for reading this little blurb about me! I hope to meet many of you on April 13th!

To close things out, I'd love to share some of my upcoming performance dates:

- **GPFS Flute Fair, April 13th at 10am. Short talk and Performance**
Location: McLoughlin Hall, Room 229 “Fresh Perspectives: New works for Flute, Alto Flute, Media, and Fixed Electronics” with composer Kevin Kopsco!
- On April 28th at 2:30pm I have the great pleasure to join GPFS member Alexis Evers and Mallory Wood with the Eugene Concert Choir/Orchestra on Piccolo for the final

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performance of the season titled “Carmina Burana & Walpurgus Night” -

<https://eugeneconcertchoir.org/2023-2024-season/carmina-burana-walpurgis-night/>

- The West Winds Flute Choir will be giving our final performance of the spring season on May 11th at 3:30-4:30pm at the Eugene Center for Spiritual Living. The performance is open to the public – If you are in the Eugene area, please consider joining us for an hour of joyful music making!
- May 17-19th I’m thrilled to be performing alongside Dr. Jacqueline Cordova-Arrington with Orchestra Next and the Eugene Ballet for the premiere of Peter Pan, with music by Kenji Bunch - <https://hultcenter.org/events/eugene-ballet-peter-pan-23/>



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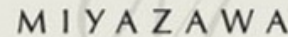
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“Music can change the world.” — Ludwig van Beethoven

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



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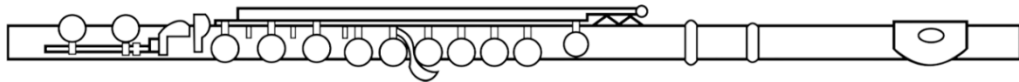
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