

Musician Profile and New Commercial Member: Rachel Hadiashar

www.zingsherwood.com

Please read on to enjoy some Q&A with Rachel. Thoughtful and humorous!



First, Meet Rachel - Photographer & Flutist

"For more than 15 years, I have been playfully exploring the boundaries of what a professional portrait might be, using my skills as an expression coach, sociologist, and musician to connect with my clients and help them get past their fear of being photographed. Through warmth, authenticity, and irreverence I call out for the opposites we hold in life to come into the conversation. Inviting the entire individual to the table has led to some incredible portraits that allow a bit of a person's soul to shine through. My client list includes work for prestigious Portland area businesses and organizations, as well as camera support for area musical ensembles and creative entrepreneurs." (source – her website)

The Photographer for Creatives

"One project I am excited about is my 2024 Portrait Series endeavoring to feature as many age 40+ multi-passionate individuals as possible." Oregonians from all disciplines are invited to commission a custom session with Rachel and included as an interview in a limited-edition magazine for multi-passionates. More information can be found at the studio's website:

http://zingsherwood.com/ps2024/

Continued.

Tell us a little bit about your flute/musical background?

From a young age, I found an outlet for my creativity- and a peer group as quirky as myself - in music-adjacent spaces. One thing I loved about playing the flute was that I could study independently at home through private lessons, and work at my own accelerated pace. I remember as a middle schooler my mother would take me to Michigan State University's music library and feed me endless dimes so I could illegally photocopy chamber music. My friends and I loved finding new pieces to work through together. Bassoon

and piccolo? Check. Flute and Eb clarinet? Yep. Wind quintet, but make it collegiate level? The small-town Michigan Solo and Ensemble adjudicators did not know what to do with us. There was one scandal where I suspected the adjudicators were unfamiliar with Villa-Lobos and that is why they dared give us a rating of 2. I still remember my confusion and rage at receiving that score.

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I went on to study music at the college that offered the largest scholarship, bless their hearts, and went on to accrue a lot of academic debt to achieve a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. I developed TMJ and carpal tunnel and my high register playing is just a little too enthusiastic, at the same time I realized that the competition for performance jobs was too fierce for a big fish from a small town. Alas, I never got to do piccolo solos in pit orchestras as I fantasized.

What inspires you musically? What inspires you as a photographer?

Spirit and authenticity are big for me in personal life. The truth and beauty of people being themselves is a through line in me finding community in musical communities, and what motivates me to help people show up more as themselves through photographs. One thing that makes me angry in all areas of life is mediocrity. I have a really hard time figuring out why people settle for just "ok in life. As I have matured and become humbled through parenting three chaotic humans, I *have* learned to accept "good enough" at times.

Do you play your flute with any group in the area? Anything you have listened to that's inspired you lately? What is on your music stand? Do you have a favorite repertoire or piece you particularly love?

I adore chamber music - especially flute quartets and choirs. I will play Kuhlau all day every day (3rd flute part please). There is something about the showoff French flute style I love, especially when it is kind of easy because it's arpeggios, but it sounds difficult. I spent time a few years ago trying to connect with people in my neighborhood for some chamber jams, and even took a flute lesson to see if I still had it but have not played lately as my photography business takes up every scrap of time not consumed by parenting young children.

All Classical Radio hosts have been a huge inspiration since moving to Oregon in 2010 - I love the breadth of programming and inclusivity initiatives. And of course, the on-air host personalities. As for live music, I really enjoy hearing orchestras and chamber groups perform around town. Whenever I hear flute solos pushing through an orchestra, I get excited — especially the 2nd and 3rd flute solos. Loud and sonorous low register playing is my flute superpower although I do have one of the last Zentner piccolos produced by Zentner himself.

Right now, my music stand has been commandeered by a sixth-grade trumpet player. In fact, I got myself a cheap trumpet to try to learn alongside my oldest child this month. I am not really looking forward to that adventure musically, but I think it will be hilarious. (It was difficult for me not to overtly judge his instrument selection, but I was so happy he went with band I decided not to try to push my agenda on him.)



What is it like photographing musicians? Is there something you particularly enjoy about that or find challenging? What do you look for/your creative process?

I have always been drawn to photograph creative people.

I took a film class in college and remember the collaborative nature of getting my fellow music majors to pose with their instruments, we used the arty light coming in the glass

windows of the lobby of the performing arts center. I LOVED the way I could not only help my colleagues get beautiful images of themselves but provide great recital advertisements — this was before digital cameras, cell phones, and it was really uncommon for people to have a current, (or even non-awkward) headshot of themselves unless they were theatre department. To have artistic, fun, and beautiful images was a completely novel concept.

Today I approach work and life with a healthy dose of lived experience body neutrality and irreverence about social norms. I provide a calm blank space in my studio where people can be themselves. To create incredible portraits, we spend time together. I learn about their values and their strengths. I enjoy considering the odd juxtapositions we all have in our lives - and how that shapes our personalities.

In 2024, I will be photographing as many creative people as possible in my studio in Sherwood Oregon. Oregon artists from all disciplines are invited to apply to commission a portrait. Offerings range from basic headshot updates (starting at \$390) to custom portrait sessions (\$1290). I would love to do more promotional work for ensembles as well.

You can see more about Rachel at her studio page, zingsherwood.com

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Ted Brown Music 6228 Tacoma Mall Blvd Tacoma, WA 98409 800-562-8938 253-272-3211 sales@tedbrownmusic.com "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



Zing Studio
Rachel Hadiashar
Photographer for Creatives
Zing Studio Sherwood
503-941-0796; rachel@zingsherwood.com
zingsherwood.com,
@zingsherwood



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