



Musician Profile – Flutist Emily Stanek

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



I am originally from New Jersey, the southern part, near Atlantic City. Growing up about 10-15 minutes from the Jersey Shore was fun! I've lived and studied music in a lot of different areas of the U.S. (Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and California). As a young musician during the summers, I studied flute with various teachers at music "camps" from England, Canada, Cape Cod, Maine, and Tennessee. Through living in all of those places, I've gotten to meet and collaborate with so many amazing musicians. **Some of my favorites of course, live right here in Oregon! We have a very special group of flutists who live in this beautiful state.**

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

That is a hard question to answer, because I am excited about all of my musical opportunities. As a teacher, I get to work with fun students who share my love of the instrument and to watch them grow musically is a joy. As a performer, I get to play amazing music with a large variety of amazing people. I want to say this is the part that most excites me, but I really can't have one without the other. My initial dream as a young flutist was to play in orchestras, principal to be exact. Yet the years and the experiences I've had in orchestral playing have changed my dreams just a bit.

I am so grateful that my husband and I (and our son and dog) were led to Oregon. I will always count this time of my life as the richest and most magical.

I now enjoy playing as a freelancer with a great many groups from piccolo, to second, to principal (and alto on occasion). I grow with each concert and really value and respect the musicians I get to collaborate with. They inspire me greatly.

What's on your music stand these days?

Depending on the week, and which orchestra I am subbing with, it changes! Right now, I have Daphnis and Chloe (suite 1 and 2), the Planets, and several pieces I will be learning for a concert at the NFA this summer in Phoenix featuring newly published pieces. Eventually, **I would really like to play a recital with dancers in the coming years, playing music that focuses on my nationality (Slovak/Italian) and the teachers I've had that mean so much (Japanese/French/etc).**

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

I recently made a recording of the first movement of Jin Ta's Flute Sonata, Op. 6 "Mongol" and Adolphus Hailstork "Yuhwa" for flute alone. They are both wonderfully rich, expressive, lyrical, and technically challenging pieces. In February, I played principal in a performance of Bach's B Minor Mass. The Domine Deus of the Mass is one of my favorite in our repertoire. The music is gloriously meaningful to me and richly beautiful in its lyricism. Another favorite concert was this past November with the Oregon Symphony. We played an all-French program with Jun Märkl, probably the most gracious and kind conductors I've ever experienced.

Who is your favorite flutist these days?

Well, I am a bit of a broken record with that question. It will always be Emmanuel Pahud and Barthold Kuijken. I do have **many** others, but those are my top favorites.

Why are you a member of GPFS?

Back in 2013 when I moved from Indiana with my husband, I contacted as many people as I could to first get involved. One of the first things I did, after being encouraged by Dr. Sydney Carlson, was join our GPFS. It wasn't too long after that Phyllis Louke and Jennifer Diaz (president at the time) asked me to become the newsletter editor. I have been on the board ever since! **I really enjoy being part of a large community of flutists, who share a similar passion and love of the instrument. Many of the board members have become dear friends.**

What kind of flute(s) do you play?

I play on a Brannen Flute with a 14K Arista headjoint. I'm playing around with the idea of lentils in my headjoint. Have you all tried this?! It is strange but so very interesting. I am not 100% sure I like it, because I hear some major changes, some of which I love and some of which I don't love. I heard this idea from the 2023 GPFS Flute Academy Guest Artist, Zach Galatis.

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

That is another hard question to answer! I've recently gotten into audio books and reading again. I've gone through a lot of audio books on my drives to Eugene and Portland and I get so hooked on them. I really like historical fiction, but also will shamefully admit that I really like fantasy adventure books. I find magic everywhere and anywhere! If I have time, I do love to run, and if I can be honest, I'd love to just stay home and play with my dog all day (and bake something yummy).

What else would you like to share with GPFS members?

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