



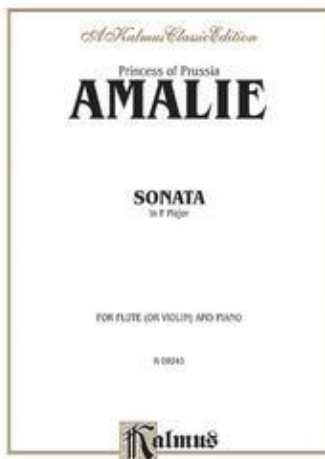
Reflections on Fall Guest Artist Recital by Dr. Mihoko Watanabe

by Sydney Carlson

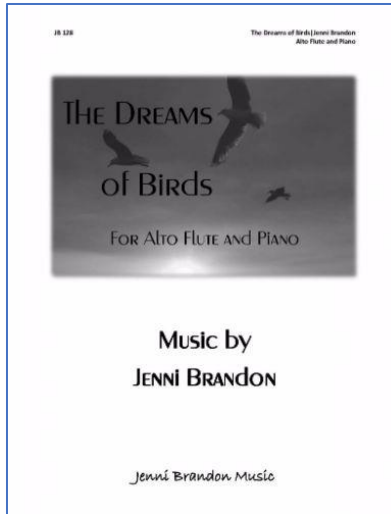


Program

- ❖ Flute Sonata in F major, flute and piano, by Princess Anna Amalia of Prussia (1723-1787).
- ❖ The Dreams of Birds, alto flute and piano, by Jenni Brandon (contemporary).
- ❖ Mei, solo flute, by Kazuo Fukushima (b1930).
- ❖ Sonata, flute and piano, by Francis Poulenc (1899-1963).



Dr Mihoko Watanabe gifted us with a beautiful performance of works from diverse eras that perfectly reflected her earlier presentation about mindfulness. As a performer, she appears perfectly relaxed and able to communicate her musical ideas easily with an audience. Her playing of the baroque “Sonata in F major” by Princess Anna Amalia of Prussia was light and playful.



The sonata was followed by “The Dreams of Birds” by Jenni Brandon for alto flute and piano. The piece sounded improvisatory and playful. The performance was spirited and virtuosic, conjuring many images of birds living out their best dreams. This piece has been donated to the GPFS free Sheet Music Lending Library. If you would like to play the piece, simply go to the [library webpage](http://librarywebpage) and make the request or message library@gpfs.org



Fukushima’s “Mei” demonstrates another side of the flute repertoire. The dramatic piece is mysterious and filled with strength; it allows the performer to display the extreme ranges of the flute, a vast array of colours, and several contemporary techniques including, pitch bending, harmonic tones, and key clicks. Dr Watanabe's performance was, once again, dynamic and dramatic. This piece

is very well known by her as she studied it with the composer Kazuo Fukushima. Reminder - *The Essence of Mei: An exploration of the inspiration behind MEI through interviews with the composer*, written by Dr. Watanabe and originally published in the Spring, 2008 NFA Quarterly publication is available to our membership for their benefit. It can be found in the Member's Area of the GPFS website. We thank the author and NFA for this generous allowance.



The recital concluded with a dynamic performance of the famous Sonata for Flute and Piano by Francis Poulenc. Both performers played with verve and sensitivity.

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