

GPFS Private Study Grant Awardees, 2021

Written by GPFS Member [Sandy Duffy Norman](#)

The Greater Portland Flute Society is pleased to announce the Study Grant winners for 2020-2021. The scholarship gives \$300 on the student's behalf for private flute lessons with a [GPFS teacher](#) of their choice.

Congratulations to these deserving, talented, flute students.

Abigail Bell - teacher Dr. Emily Stanek

Bonnie Brockway - teacher Dr. Emily Stanek

Victor Ceja - teacher Sandy Duffy Norman

Diego Fernandez - teacher Dr. Abigail Sperling

Anita Navarro - teacher Dr. Emily Stanek

The mission of the study grant program is to help provide educational opportunities and inspiration through membership in the flute society and private instruction. The GPFS newsletter and web site allows flutists to find teachers, accompanists, performing ensembles, workshops, master classes, vendors, and flute repair information.



Abigail Bell is a 6th grader from Dallas, Oregon and is educated at home. She has been playing flute for five years. The first three years she studied with Brigitte Chase and is currently studying with Dr. Emily Stanek. Abigail has enjoyed playing at recitals and sharing her music at any and all school or church events. She plans to continue studying flute, as well as bagpipes and guitar. Abigail has a passion for learning and for Celtic music. She looks forward to learning internationally and seeking new opportunities as her family is planning on moving overseas next year.



Victor Ceja is a sophomore flutist at McNary High School in Keizer, Oregon, where he plays with the wind ensemble, symphony, and the marching band. He has been playing flute for four years and describes playing flute as graceful and fulfilling. Victor was selected for the 2020-21 OMEA All-State Orchestra, he was principal flute of the 2019-2020 OMEA All-State Wind Symphony, placed first-alternate in the 2020 OMEA Solo and Ensemble district competition, and is a member of the Salem Youth Symphony. Victor studies with Sandy Duffy Norman and he appreciates the opportunities that scholarships have given him to learn and perform. Victor is encouraged to practice and work hard by the inspirational peers around him. He plans to continue to play flute for the rest of his life and looks forward to many future challenging and exciting experiences.



Diego Fernandez started the flute in 6th grade and quickly gained a passion for it. Working hard with teachers and peers, he was placed in an advanced school group in seventh grade. During this time he also started working with a private teacher, Abigail Sperling, on standard exercises and solo flute repertoire. Currently a sophomore at South Salem High School, Diego plays flute and piccolo as a member of the school Wind Ensemble and Portland Youth Philharmonic. He also enjoys participating in online ensembles and recording videos for senior homes and concerts. Besides playing the flute, he often enjoys talking with friends, eating food, and sleeping.



Bonnie Brockway is a junior at Sprague High School. She has been playing flute for six years and has enjoyed private lessons with Dr. Emily Stanek throughout those six years. Bonnie is currently part of the Wind Ensemble at Sprague High School. During her high school years she has participated in Sprague's award winning Marching Band as well as Orchestra performances. She has also participated in Solo and Ensemble competitions in Salem-Keizer. Bonnie is currently serving as the Secretary on the Sprague Bandsleadership team and enjoys helping new band members feel included in the group. Bonnie's flute playing has provided her with many wonderful opportunities and allows her to build special memories and strong friendships. Bonnie and her family are very grateful for the support and generosity of the GPFS. It makes a very positive difference for her and her family and supports Bonnie's continuing growth as a Flutist through her work with Dr. Stanek.



Anita Navarro is a junior at McNary High School and is a member of the wind ensemble, symphony, and marching band. She is in her seventh year playing the flute and the fourth year playing the piccolo. She auditioned for Salem/Keizer All City Honor Band and performed in the OMEA IV solo and ensemble, placing first alternate with her flute quartet, qualifying for the OSAA State Competition. Music has always been a big part of who she is. She joined her church choir when she was six years old and playing flute at church in 7th grade. She is the first in her family to be born in this country, and to attend high school. This is why she takes school very seriously, and has always done well in school and plans on keeping education as a priority. Her parents do their best to support her in every way they can, unfortunately, their jobs limit their physical and financial support. She is grateful for the grant to give her the advantage to build her flute skills, which will help with being more successful in life. Anita studies with Dr. Emily Stanek - one of the most kind and caring teachers she has encountered. She would like to pursue a career related to either math or music, maybe even both. Anita watches football on her off hours.

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