

# TEXAS FLUTE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2013

*Texas Flute Society  
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January 1, 2013- December 31, 2013*

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## Letter from the President

Another year has come and gone for the Texas Flute Society taking with it another inspirational and successful Flute Festival. The 2013 Texas Flute Festival provided a full smorgasbord of treats for flute players of all ages, levels, and walks of life. Holly Hofmann's phenomenal jazz styles thrilled audiences and encouraged jazz novices to explore their inner improv. Master performer and teacher, Thomas Robertello wowed flutists with his absolute control of the flute and the full spectrum of colors it is capable of producing. Conor Nelson's vitality and creativity breathed a contagious energy and excitement into the Festival, and 2012 Myrna Brown winner, Valerie Johnson, dazzled us with her seamless performances on flute and piccolo. In addition to the usual Festival flute choirs, this year's festivalgoers were treated to the harmonious sounds of professional flute choirs performing in the lobby. The boundaries of flute playing possibilities were pushed in the Myrna Brown and Donna Marie Haire competitions, and, of course, we cannot forget the hundreds of flutists from



beginners through advanced who showed off their hard work and passion in solo and ensemble performances for our flute specialist clinicians. Every crevice of the University of North Texas was filled with flute music at this year's Flute Festival, and it was all made possible through the hard work and tireless dedication of the entire Texas Flute Society Board and Festival volunteers. The biggest of thank yous to the TFS board, volunteers, flute teachers, students, and parents! I would especially like to thank our leader, Meg Griffith. Meg said from the very beginning that she wanted to create a Festival that appealed to everyone and opened people's eyes to things they do not normally get to see. Congratulations Meg! You accomplished this and so much more!

Meg leaves behind very large shoes to fill, but I am excited to follow in her footsteps and take over as President of the Texas Flute Society for the 2013-2014 season. With the help of the members of the board – both new and returning – it is sure to be an exciting season! We have a lot of new faces on the board this year. Please join the TFS board in welcoming our new Secretary – Jennifer Kirby, Clinic Coordinator – Mary Shinn, Trustee – Ann Vinod, Festival Co-Chairs – Bethany Padgett and Shauna Thompson, Haire Competition Coordinator – Dr. Francesca Arnone, Masterclass Competition Coordinator – Julee Kim Walker, Industry/Commercial Liaison – Meg Griffith, Volunteer Coordinator – Mariana Gariazzo, Hospitality Coordinator – Karen Eichinger, and Registration Coordinator – Diana Sparacin. Everyone is already hard at work planning next year's events. Here is a sneak peek at some of the events already in the works:

- After the success of last year's Spring Event, this year's **Fall Event** will be another Members' Recital. The Members' Recital will take place on Saturday, November 2, 2013, at 6:00 pm at the Frisco School of Music. Six performers will be selected on a first come first serve basis. Teachers, professional performers, and adult amateurs are welcome to apply. Each performer may play a piece no longer than 10 minutes – accompanied or unaccompanied. TFS covers the cost of the venue and the accompanist, so there is no cost for the performer at all! Interested in performing? Contact Brittany DeLaVergne at [b.delavergne@yahoo.com](mailto:b.delavergne@yahoo.com) or 254-434-3889.
- The first of our TFS sponsored 4A/5A **All-Region Clinics** will be held in the Choir Room at Highland Park High School on Saturday, November 9, 2013, at 10:00 am. TFS is excited to have Dr. Dennette McDermott, Professor of Flute and Graduate Studies at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, as our clinician!
- Repertoire and application requirements for the **Festival Masterclass Competitions, Myrna Brown Competition, and Donna Marie Haire Competition** have been released. Keep reading for more details!
- The **Spring Event** is sure to excite – Laurel Zucker is coming! She will be performing a recital at the Langdon Center in Granbury on February 8<sup>th</sup>. More information to come!
- The **2014 Texas Flute Festival** will be held at the University of North Texas on May 15-17, 2014. This year's guest artists will include Jean Ferrandis, Lisa Garner Santa, John Thorne, and 2013 Myrna Brown winner, Brittney Balkcom.

Mark your calendars now for it is sure to be a whirlwind year in the Texas flute community. I hope you all enjoy the few remaining days of summer. Rest up now for the big year ahead.

Best wishes,  
Lisa Phillips



Congratulations and welcome to the newly appointed Principal Flute of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, **Demarre McGill**! Winner of a 2003 Avery Fisher Career Grant, Demarre McGill has performed concerti with the Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, The Florida Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, and the Baltimore Symphony. Most recently principal flutist of the Seattle Symphony, Mr. McGill has held the same position with the San Diego Symphony, the Florida Orchestra, and the Sante Fe Opera Orchestra, along with an acting principal position with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He is also the co-founder and Artistic Director of Art of Élan and is the founding member of the San Diego-based Myriad Trio. Mr. McGill received his Bachelor's Degree in Flute Performance from The Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Julius Baker and Jeffrey Khaner. He continued his studies with Mr. Baker at the Juilliard School where he received a Master of Music degree.

Congratulations and Welcome to the newly appointed Assistant Professor of Flute at Texas Christian University, **Shauna Kay Thompson**! She holds a DMA and a MM in flute performance from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music where she studied with Brad Garner and served as his teaching assistant. She completed additional studies with Randy Bowman of the Cincinnati Symphony. Dr. Thompson also received a Bachelor of Music from Texas Tech University where she studied with Lisa Garner Santa. Prior to joining the TCU faculty Dr. Thompson served as consortium instructor of flute at the University of Evansville and principal flute with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra. Dr. Thompson has previously been the principal flute of the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra and second flute with the Midland Odessa Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Thompson won the 26th annual Myrna Brown competition with the Texas Flute Society and was honored to return as a guest artist to their 2012 convention. She is also prize winner of many other competitions including the Pittsburg Flute Club Young Artist, National Flute Association, Frank Bowen, Claude Monteaux, and MTNA.

Congratulations to the newly appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Texas at Arlington, **Terri Sanchez**! Terri Sanchez is a Teaching Fellow and Doctoral student at the University of North Texas as well as the conductor of the UNT Flute Choir. She earned her Master's degree at Southern Methodist University and her Bachelor's degree at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Ms. Sanchez is a laureate of many national competitions including the San Diego Flute Guild Artist Gold Competition, National Flute Association Young Artist Competition, Myrna W. Brown Artist Competition, NFA Orchestral Audition Competition, Upper Midwest Flute Association Competition, and Walfrid Kujala Piccolo Competition. She has performed with the UNT Symphony Orchestra and the SMU Meadows Symphony Orchestra as a winner of both university concerto competitions. This year, she will be presenting her teaching concept, "Sound Sheets" at the National Flute Association Convention in Louisiana and the San Diego Flute Guild Festival. Ms. Sanchez has had the opportunity to study with many wonderful teachers, including Prof. Terri Sundberg, Dr. Elizabeth McNutt, Kara Kirkendoll Welch, Deborah Baron, Alexa Still, Jean Garver Larson, Helen Blackburn and Leticia Ledesma. She is especially grateful to her two mentors, Claire Johnson and Gabriel Sánchez.

## 2013 Festival Wrap-Up

The Texas Flute Society hosted the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Flute Festival on May 16-18, 2013, at the University of North Texas in Denton. Approximately 1,500 students, teachers, professionals, amateurs, and auditors partook in the Festival's offerings by attending concerts, workshops, and masterclasses given by the Guest Artists and by performing solos and ensembles for clinicians.

### Guest Artists

This year's Festival Guest Artists were Holly Hofmann, acclaimed jazz flutist; Conor Nelson, Assistant Professor of Flute at Bowling Green State University; Thomas Robertello, Associate Professor of Flute at Indiana University; and Valerie Estes Johnson, winner of the 2012 Myrna Brown Competition. In addition to a recital featuring old and new jazz favorites, Holly Hofmann presented a masterclass introducing jazz improvisation basics. Numerous flutists of varying levels took to the stage to try their hand at improv. The result was a fun, impromptu jam session making jazz seem possible for everyone. Conor Nelson charmed audiences with his virtuosic performance of standard flute masterpieces by Martin, Dutilleux, and Jolivet and newer masterworks by Carter and Maroney. In the high school masterclass, Nelson's characteristic energy danced, sang, and inspired the young flutists to explore their air direction to discover new tone colors and to bring out the different characters of the music. Thomas Robertello's mastery of sound and artistic sensitivity was displayed in a recital of works by Ives, Bach, and Pierne. He further discussed his approach to sound and the wide range of harmonics involved in creating color as well as his thoughts on technique and other aspects of flute playing in both the College and Adult Masterclass and a workshop on "Teaching Teaching." The nuance of sound and perfection of technique Valerie Estes Johnson displayed in last year's Myrna Brown Competition finals were even more polished in this year's recital of works by Morlacchi, Telemann, Daugherty, Colquhoun, Takemitsu, and Giesecking. She passed the torch on to the next generation of great flute players in the Junior High Masterclass and introduced piccolo playing and exercises to overcome its difficulties in sound, pitch, and technique in her workshop, "Demystifying the Piccolo." This year's Flute Festival offered a kaleidoscope view of the flute world. Whether the flutist was interested in jazz, virtuosic flute standards, new music, piccolo, teaching, or being exposed to something new, this year's Festival attendees were not disappointed!

### Flute Choirs

In between Guest Artist events, audiences and students waiting to perform for clinicians were treated to the sounds of flute choirs performing in the lobby outside of Voertman Concert Hall. The flute choirs featured included Flutopia led by Phil Jackson, Flutissimo! led by Janice Spooner and Marco Jerez, Tarleton State University Flute Choir led by Ronda Winter-Eldridge, Shimmer led by Donna Pattison, Flutes Unlimited led by Dr. Ellen Kaner, and the Texas A&M University-Commerce Flute Choir led by Dr. Julee Kim Walker. Flutasia serenaded concertgoers during Friday night's Artist Reception after the Myrna Brown Competition finals. These Lobby Concerts were a new addition to the Texas Flute Festival this year. With the positive feedback we received from excited audiences and performers, these concerts are a tradition we hope to continue for many years!

In addition to the Lobby Concerts performed by professional flute choirs, festivalgoers also participated in the Festival Flute Choirs. These flute choirs met for the first time and rehearsed a little over an hour before they gave a recital! The Beginner Flute Choir was directed by Gayle Amato; Ronda Winter-Eldridge directed the Intermediate Flute Choir; and Julia Lawson led the Advanced Flute Choir. As always, much fun was had by all!

### Solos and Ensembles

Over 600 flutists, from beginners through professionals, took advantage of the opportunity to perform a solo and/or ensemble for a flute specialist clinician at the Festival. Unlike solo and ensemble contests run by schools which restrict the music performed to a specific list of works, flutists are free to perform any piece they would like at the Festival. Ensembles are also not restricted, and students can even perform with friends from other schools and areas! Adult amateurs and professionals who may or may not study regularly with a teacher have the often-difficult-to-come-by chance to play for another set of well-trained ears. All performers get the opportunity to demonstrate the hard work they have put in throughout the year and receive valuable input on ways to continue improving in flute playing and teaching. Although this performance opportunity is not meant to be viewed as a competition, each clinician is given the chance to recognize Outstanding and Honor soloists or ensembles from the performances they heard throughout the day. These recognized flutists receive a certificate, and those recognized as Outstanding also receive free TFS membership for the year. The list of Outstanding and Honor soloists and ensembles from this year's Festival are listed on the Texas Flute Society website. Congratulations to all flutists who performed for a clinician this year! We look forward to hearing you (and many new flutists) at next year's Festival.

### Myrna W. Brown Artist Competition

Myrna Brown was a cornerstone of the North Central Texas flute community and a founding member of the Texas Flute Society. She taught for many years at Midwestern State University, North Texas State University, and the University of Arlington, and she performed with the Utah Symphony, Arkansas Orchestra Society, and Wichita Falls Symphony. The Myrna W. Brown Artist Competition was established to honor her after her death in 1990. Due to the high cash prize, automatic invitation for the winner to be a Guest Artist at the following year's Texas Flute Festival, and the lack of age limit, the Myrna Brown Competition has risen to be highly competitive attracting scores of applicants from across the country each year. This year's competition featured a newly commissioned work, *A Memory of Mélisande*, by Daniel Pesca as the piece required of all performers. Special thanks to Marilyn Arey, Melissa Arthur, Debbie Ragsdale, Monica Song, Ann Vinod, and Brannen Brothers Flutemakers, Inc. for helping to make this commission possible. Congratulations to this year's semi-finalists – Amy Casper, Amanda Chavis, Sarah Tran, and Chao Wang. Special congratulations to this year's prize winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Place - **Brittney Balkcom** is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree at the Longy School of Music of Bard College, where she studies with Robert Willoughby. She is a 2011 graduate of the University of North Texas, earning her undergraduate degree under the instruction of Terri Sundberg as a recipient of the UNT Wind and Percussion Scholarship, the Nicholas D. and Ann G. Ricco Excellence in Music Scholarship, and the Mary Lou Finley and Dan Emenheiser GLBTA Scholarship. Brittney has received top

prizes and awards in the Atlanta Flute Club's Young Artist Competition, the Oklahoma Flute Society's Collegiate Artist Competition, and the Texas Music Teachers Associations' Concerto Competition.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - **Matthew Ross** began his studies at age 15 and was accepted in the Juilliard Pre-College Division under Dr. Bradley Garner one year later. Upon graduation, he continued studying at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where he is currently enrolled. Matthew has played with numerous orchestras, including the Juilliard Pre-College, New York Youth, New York City Opera, and CCM Philharmonia and Concert Orchestras. He has also won awards in the South Carolina Flute Society, Alexander and Buono, Long Island Flute Club, and Yamaha Young Performing Artist Competitions, and will be an apprentice at National Music Festival in Maryland this summer.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - A North Carolina native, **Emlyn Johnson** is a flutist pursuing her doctorate at the Eastman School of Music, where she studies with Bonita Boyd. This season included collaborations with the Slee Sinfonietta and members of Ensemble Signal, as well as her Eastman Theater and Kilbourn Hall solo debuts performing works by Boulez and Melinda Wagner. Her training outside of Eastman has been quite diverse, with summers spent performing operettas in the French countryside; delving into contemporary techniques with Wil Offermans in Spain; studying Baroque flute with Tafelmusik; exploring jazz flute with Ali Ryerson; and attending orchestral festivals including Aspen and Chautauqua. Emlyn is also a passionate educator who is on the faculty of the Eastman Community Music School and was the 2012 flute instructor at Belvoir Terrace, an arts camp for girls in Lenox, MA.

#### Donna Marie Haire Young Artist Competition

Donna Marie Theisen Haire dedicated her life to encouraging love and enthusiasm for music in the hearts of young people. A talented vocalist and pianist herself, she spent nearly forty years teaching music through groups focused on early childhood development, Sunday school, and small musical theater productions. Following her death in 2010, the Donna Marie Haire Young Artist Competition was established to continue Donna's presence in keeping music and inspiration alive in young flutists. Only in its second year of existence, the Donna Marie Haire Competition is open to all middle and high school aged flutists. A high cash prize has attracted applications from across the country making this one of the newest up and coming competitions for this age group around! Congratulations to this year's finalists Crystal Kim and Connie Lee and this year's winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Place - **Elizabeth Kang** is currently a senior at Plano West High School. She has been a member of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra (top orchestra) for the past three years and is currently principal flutist. She also traveled with the GDYO on their 2012 European tour as principal flutist. In 2011, she won Outstanding Performer at Texas State Solo and Ensemble. She has won Outstanding Soloist and Outstanding Ensemble multiple times at Texas Flute Festival. She also holds first chair at her school and is a section leader as well as a field officer. She currently studies with Monica Song.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - **Joann Lee**, 17, lives in Plano, Texas, and studies under Monica Song. She has received the Texas Flute Festival Outstanding Performer Award in Solo and Ensemble for four years, has been an All-State

member for two years, and has been the Dallas Symphonic Festival Concerto division winner for three years. Her most distinguished achievement has been in the 2010 MTNA competitions where she was the National Junior Woodwind division first place winner. In addition, Joann has performed in masterclasses with Marianne Gedigian, Marina Piccinini, Carol Wincenc, Jim Walker, and Sir James Galway. She has been a member of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra for three years and was their featured soloist in 2011.

### Exhibits

When a free moment was found between checking out Guest Artist recitals, masterclasses, and workshops and listening to flute choirs and competitions or performing for a clinician, Festival participants were able to stop in to the grand exhibit hall to visit the numerous exhibitors displaying their wares. Flutes and piccolos of all kinds were available to try. Flute music of every genre was for sale. Even flute accessories, jewelry, and apparel could be bought! It's not every day that you have access to one-stop flute shopping at vendors from across the country! The following companies were involved in this year's exhibits: ALRY Publications, Altus Flutes, Bernhard Hammig North America, BG Frank Bichon, Brannen Brothers Flutemakers, Brook Mays, Burkhart Flutes and Piccolos, Carolyn Nussbaum Music Company, Drelinger Headjoint Company, Flute Center of New York, Flute World Company, Gemeinhardt Musical Instruments, Jupiter Band Instruments, Miyazawa/Trevor James, Music Agency, Pearl Flutes, Pender's Music Co., Sankyo Flutes USA, Straubinger Flutes, Verne Q. Powell Flutes, William S. Haynes Company, Williamson Music Co., Woodwind & Brasswind, and Yamaha Corporation of America.

### Wrap-Up

As is tradition, the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Flute Festival ended with a Showcase Concert featuring a culmination of the day's activities – performances by each of the Guest Artists and a special performance of flute favorite, Gluck's *Dance of the Blessed Spirits*, with Thomas Robertello accompanied by a flute choir comprised of flutists selected from each one of the flute choirs involved in the Lobby Concerts. The Texas Flute Society caters to a large area teeming with flutists of wide interests. This year's Festival tried hard to appeal to all flutists young and old(er!), beginner through professional, jazz through classical and contemporary, solo player and ensemble player. Many thanks to all those involved – volunteers, clinicians, accompanists, Guest Artists, performers, and TFS board members – and a special thank you to the woman who made it all possible, Meg Griffith. We would also like to thank all those who attended the Festival. We hope you enjoyed it, and we cannot wait to see you next year! Speaking of next year – keep reading for a preview of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Flute Festival! 🎵



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## 2014 Texas Flute Festival Preview

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Flute Festival will be held Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, on the campus of the University of North Texas in Denton. We are excited to announce the following flutists as our Guest Artists:



French soloist and conductor **Jean Ferrandis** enjoys an international career that takes him throughout Europe, Asia, and North America. He has presented recitals, performed chamber music, and appeared as soloist with orchestra in such prestigious concert halls as the Salle Pleyel and Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris, Alice Tully Hall in New York, the Tapei Arts Center, Wigmore Hall in London, La Fenice in Venice, Hamariky Hall in Tokyo, the Vigado in Budapest, the Palau de la Musica Catalana in Barcelona, and the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, under such conductors as Leonard Bernstein, Tibor Varga, Laurent Petitgirard, and Yoram David. He has been invited to numerous festivals, including the Lanaudière in Canada, Switzerland's Sion Festival, the Budapest Spring Festival, the Midem Festival in Cannes, and the Berlioz Festival in Lyon. Chamber music collaborators have included Gidon Kremer, Ivry Gitlis, Jean Philippe Collard, and Emile Naoumoff. His appearances at the 2006 National Flute Association convention in Pittsburgh, an event attended by three thousand flutists, included a gala headliner concert in Heinz Hall and a master

class.

In addition to his performing career, Mr. Ferrandis serves as professor at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris and at California State University, Fullerton. He regularly presents master classes in Japan (Toho University), the United States (The Juilliard School, Rice University etc...), Europe (Royal College of London, Moscow Conservatoire etc...), Australia, Taiwan, and Korea, and has also appeared in South Africa. As a conductor he leads the Saint Petersburg Camerata in Russia and in Vilnius (Lithuania) the Saint Christopher Chamber Orchestra, with which he has recorded flute concertos of C. P. E. Bach. Other compact discs include Mozart's complete flute concertos (with Marie-Pierre Langlamet, solo harpist of the Berlin Philharmonic), works of Honegger and d'Indy, Schubert's sonatinas and the "Arpeggione" sonata, and a two-disc set of works for flute by Yuko Uebayashi.

Jean Ferrandis unanimously received his first prize from the Lyon Conservatoire, where he studied with Maxence Larrieu. A prize winner at such international competitions as Munich, Maria Canals in Barcelona, and Young Concert Artists in New York, he was awarded the grand prize at the 1986 Prague Spring Festival International Flute Competition. Leonard Bernstein was so impressed by his performance of the adagio from Mozart's D major concerto that he remarked "It is Pan himself!" and subsequently composed a cadenza for Mr. Ferrandis.

**Lisa Garner Santa** currently serves as Artist-Performer and Associate Professor of Flute at Texas Tech University where she enjoys a diverse career as teacher, recitalist, soloist, and chamber musician. Performance highlights include the world premiere of Mike Mower's Concerto for Flute and Wind Ensemble and a Carnegie Hall debut recital featuring Chamber Works for Flute. *Rêver en Couleurs* (Dreaming in Color): French Music for Solo Flute and Piano, presented in collaboration with Gabriel Sanchez, is her most recent CD release on MSR Classics.



As an active member of the National Flute Association, Dr. Garner Santa has been a featured performer at the Boston, Atlanta, Phoenix, Dallas, Nashville, and Kansas City conventions. She has served as adjudicator and/or coordinator for many NFA events and competitions including the High School Soloist Competition, the NFA Newly Published Music Competition, the NFA Professional Flute Choir Competition, as the General Competitions Coordinator, and as NFA Convention Associate Program Chair for the 2002 convention. She recently served the NFA as Program Chair for the 2011 convention held in Charlotte, NC. Lisa Garner Santa's versatile programming ranges from the elegant Baroque music of Bach to the jazz-inspired writings of Mike Mower.

As a pedagogue, Lisa Garner Santa presents masterclasses throughout the United States and abroad. Recent international exchanges include masterclasses at the Royal College of Music in London, England and Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. Presentations and performances at various regional and national conventions include invitations from the Texas Music Educators Association, the Texas Music Teachers Association, the National Association of Wind and Percussion Instructors, and the College Music Society. Her research and pedagogical articles are frequently published in *The Flutist Quarterly*, *Flute Talk*, and *The Instrumentalist*. In recognition of her creative teaching, she was awarded the Texas Tech Big 12 Fellowship as well as the Texas Tech Alumni Association New Faculty Award and is also an elected member of Texas Tech University's prestigious Teaching Academy.

Dr. Garner Santa holds performance degrees from West Texas State University, Florida State University, and The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Her teachers to whom she is eternally grateful include Carol Wincenc, Charles DeLaney, Sally Turk, and Helen Blackburn. In addition to her active role as a flutist, Lisa Garner Santa is also a certified Kripalu Yoga Instructor and member of the Yoga Alliance. She teaches Yoga for Musicians at the TTU School of Music and Kripalu Yoga classes at various locations throughout Lubbock.



**John Thorne** is an Associate Professor of Flute at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. He joined the Bienen School faculty after having been the Associate Principal Flute of the Houston Symphony from 1992 until 2012. Previously, he has held the position of Principal Flute with the San Antonio Symphony and the Florida West Coast Symphony (now called the Sarasota Orchestra). He started his career as a member of the inaugural season of the New World Symphony, under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas.

Mr. Thorne received his Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute of Music, where he was a student of Julius Baker, former Principal Flute of the New York Philharmonic, and John Krell, former Piccolo player of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Mr. Thorne has also studied privately with Anne Diener Zentner, former Principal Flute of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He received his Master of Music from Michigan State University, where he was part of the Halyburton Wind Quintet in residence at the College of Music.

Since joining the faculty of the Bienen School of Music, Mr. Thorne has appeared as soloist with the Symphonic Wind Ensemble in Joel Puckett's *The Shadow of Sirius*. This season, Mr. Thorne will perform the Bach b minor Suite with the Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra.

Mr. Thorne has appeared as a soloist with the Houston Symphony on numerous occasions, performing concertos by C.P.E. Bach and Vivaldi. As part of a concert featuring the Associate Principal winds of the Houston Symphony, he performed Frank Martin's *Concerto for Seven Wind Instruments*. Most recently, he appeared with the orchestra in Leonard Bernstein's *Halil*.

As a chamber musician, Mr. Thorne has performed with the Chicago Wind Quintet, Da Camera of Houston, Dempster Street Pro Musica in Chicago, the Florida Wind Quintet, the Greenbriar Consortium (organized by Houston Symphony members), and the Texas Music Festival. He has been a frequent recitalist in the Houston area, performing with Scott Holshouser, Principal Keyboardist of the Houston Symphony. They have performed recitals at Rice University's Duncan Recital Hall, the University of Houston's Moore's Opera House, and as part of the chamber music series at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Houston.

Mr. Thorne has given masterclasses for the ARIA International Summer Academy, Austin Flute Club, Boston Flute Academy, Boston University, Greater Indianapolis Flute Club, Houston Flute Club, The University of Texas at Austin, University of Utah, and the Wisconsin Flute Festival. He has also served on juries for The National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition and the Houston Flute Club's Byron Hester Competition.

During the summers, Mr. Thorne is a regular member of the Grand Teton Music Festival, performing both orchestral as well as chamber music concerts. In Houston, he has been a member of the Texas Music Festival faculty and has performed as part of their concert series at the University of Houston and at Texas A&M University in College Station.

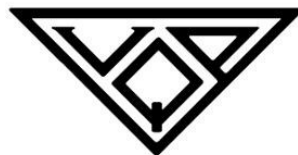
Flutist **Brittney Balkcom** is an emerging artist known for her “wonderful control,” “terrific energy,” “beautiful, spinning sound” and “sensitive musicianship” with “marvelous potential.” She is the First Prize winner of the 2013 Myrna W. Brown Artist Competition, and is honored to be returning as a guest artist at the 2014 Texas Flute Festival. Brittney has also won top prizes and awards in the Atlanta Flute Club’s Young Artist competition, the Oklahoma Flute Society’s Collegiate Artist competition, and the Texas Music Teachers Association’s Young Artist Concerto Competition.



A Houston native, Brittney currently lives and works in Boston where she performs as Principal Flutist of the Longy Conservatory Orchestra and Longitude New Music Ensemble; recording flutist/piccoloist with the Video Game Orchestra and Boston Chamber Orchestra; co-principal flutist of the New England Repertory Orchestra (NERO); and substitute flutist for the Brookline Symphony Orchestra. She also served as co-principal flutist of the 2012 and 2013 Hot Springs Music Festival orchestras under Maestro Peter Bay of the Austin Symphony. This summer, Brittney will join the Boston Landmarks Orchestra for their newly established “Notes in the Neighborhood” program, which brings music performance and education to children in Boston’s underserved communities.

Brittney currently studies with legendary pedagogue Robert Willoughby as a Master of Music candidate at the Longy School of Music of Bard College. She is a 2011 graduate of the University of North Texas, earning her undergraduate degree under the instruction of Terri Sundberg as a recipient of the UNT Wind and Percussion Scholarship, the Nicholas D. and Ann G. Ricco Excellence in Music Scholarship, and the Mary Lou Finley and Dan Emenheiser GLBTA Scholarship.

In addition to her principal teachers, Brittney has studied with Elizabeth McNutt and Sydney Carlson, and has had the privilege of performing in master classes with Jill Felber, Marco Granados, Christina Jennings, Rhian Kenny, Gary Schocker, Harvey Sollberger, Jessica Warren-Acosta, and Carol Wincenc. She can be heard on the Klavier and Naxos labels as a member of various UNT ensembles, as well as on the Square Enix label for the original soundtrack from *Final Fantasy XIII: Lightning Returns*, which is scheduled for release in February 2014. 🎵



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## 2014 Competitions

Interested in performing in a masterclass with one of the Guest Artists at the 2014 Texas Flute Festival? A competition is held to select performers for each masterclass from the following categories - Junior High, High School, College & Adult, and Orchestral Excerpts. Applications and requirements are available on the TFS website ([www.texasflutesociety.org](http://www.texasflutesociety.org)) or by contacting the Masterclass Coordinator, Julee Kim Walker at [juleekimwalker@gmail.com](mailto:juleekimwalker@gmail.com) or 940-595-0378.

**The 29th Annual Myrna W. Brown Artist Competition** is held in conjunction with the Texas Flute Festival May 15-16, 2014. This competition is open to anyone, and there is no age limit. Prizes are as follows: First Prize - \$1,200; Second - \$500; Third - \$250. Applications and requirements are available on the TFS website ([www.texasflutesociety.org](http://www.texasflutesociety.org)) or by contacting the Myrna Brown Coordinators Pam Adams, [padamsflute@yahoo.com](mailto:padamsflute@yahoo.com), 817-236-5687, or Debbie Ragsdale, [debrags@hotmail.com](mailto:debrags@hotmail.com), 972-540-2717.

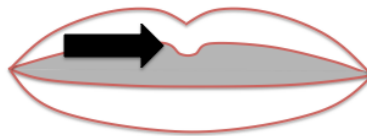
**The 3rd Annual Donna Marie Haire Young Artist Competition** will be held in conjunction with the Texas Flute Festival on May 17, 2014. This competition is open to all school age flutists who will graduate high school during or after the 2013-2014 school year. Prizes are as follows: First - \$1,000 and Second - \$500. Applications and requirements are available on the TFS website ([www.texasflutesociety.org](http://www.texasflutesociety.org)) or by contacting the Haire Competition Coordinator, Dr. Francesca Arnone at [Francesca\\_Arnone@baylor.edu](mailto:Francesca_Arnone@baylor.edu) or 254-710-6524.

## Asymmetrical Embouchures: Working Around the Teardrop

by Valerie Estes Johnson

The dreaded teardrop is often blamed for a ‘fuzzy’ sound or interfering with sound production altogether. While it is true that someone who attempts to form a symmetrical embouchure with a teardrop may be unable to create a ‘clean sound,’ there are many flutists who play with a good sound by playing with an asymmetrical embouchure. The following is a set of guidelines on how to create an asymmetrical embouchure ideal for flutists with teardrops.

To begin, what is a teardrop? It is on the center of the upper lip,



the downward extension of skin shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Teardrop

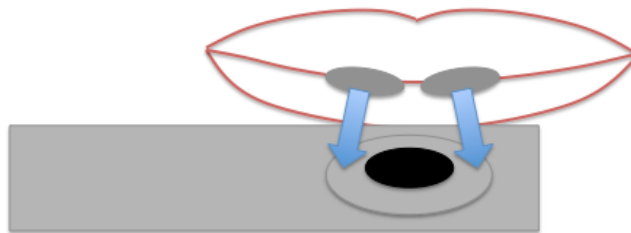


Figure 2: Teardrop splitting the airstream

When a flutist with a teardrop forms an embouchure in the center of the lips, the airstream is split in two directions, creating a fuzzy sound (Figure 2). The solution is to play with an asymmetrical embouchure on either the right or left side of the teardrop. First, the flutist must decide which side to play from. He or she should start with the lips closed, pursed slightly as if he or she is saying “puh,” and blow gently so that the airstream opens the lips slightly. If this is done correctly, either the right or left side of the lips will open first: that is the side that should be used to form the embouchure. Some flutists do this subconsciously because it creates a more uniform airstream. The next step is to angle of the embouchure hole, and therefore the angle of the flute, must be adjusted to match the position of the embouchure.

*NB: The angles of the flute in the following images are exaggerated in order to show relational positions. Each flutist is different and should apply these guidelines to whichever degree produces the best sound, without sacrificing comfort.*

### **Right-sided embouchures:**

When a flutist with a right-sided embouchure places the flute in the center of the chin with the flute parallel to the ground, the airstream is not pointed directly at the embouchure hole, creating the lost air that makes the sound fuzzy (Figure 3).

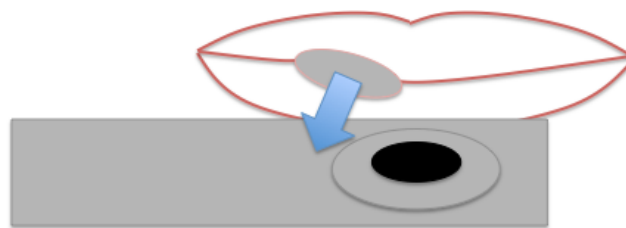


Figure 3: An asymmetrical embouchure with a symmetrically-arranged flute

When playing from the right, the lip plate should rest a little right of center on the chin, and the flute should be angled to match the embouchure by tilting the flute up with the right hand (Figure 4) and pulling the flute back with the right arm (Figure 5). Lay a handheld mirror on a music stand in order to see the embouchure-

flute angle clearly. The ideal sound is created when the embouchure hole of the flute is parallel to the embouchure. This permits the flutist the most control over airstream and, thus, the sound.

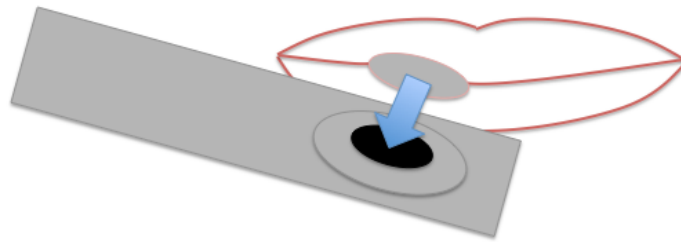


Figure 4: Observer's view of a right-sided embouchure with a properly angled flute

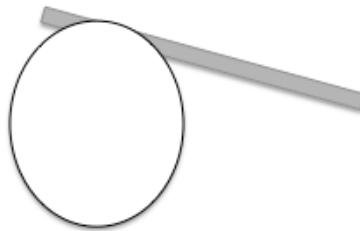


Figure 5: Overhead view of a right-sided embouchure

#### **Left-sided embouchures:**

As with the right-sided embouchure, when a flutist with a left-sided embouchure places the flute in the center of the chin with the flute parallel to the ground, the airstream is not pointed directly at the embouchure hole, creating the lost air that makes the sound fuzzy (Figure 6).

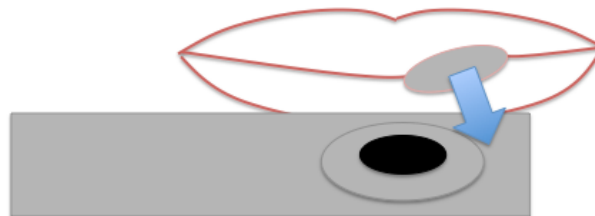


Figure 6: An asymmetrical embouchure with a symmetrically-arranged flute

When playing from the left, the lip plate should rest a little left of center on the chin, and the flute should be angled to match the embouchure by tilting the flute down with the right hand (Figure 7) and pushing forward with the right arm (Figure 8). As with the right-sided embouchure, the flutist should lay a handheld mirror on a music stand in order to see the embouchure-flute angle clearly. The ideal sound is created when the embouchure hole of the flute is parallel to the embouchure. This permits the flutist the most control over airstream.

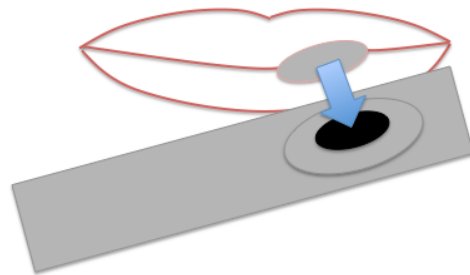


Figure 7: Observer's view of an embouchure on the left

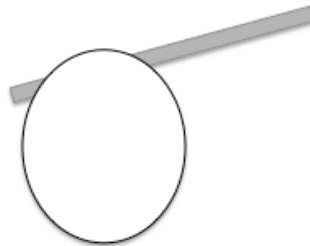


Figure 8: Overhead view of an embouchure on the left





Figure 9: Album cover of Jean-Pierre Rampal's *Bach: Flute Concertos*

A careful inspection of this album cover of Jean-Pierre Rampal's *Bach: Flute Concertos* in Figure 9 (released in 1984 by Sony) reveals that he played with an asymmetrical embouchure. He formed his embouchure from the left side of his mouth, angled his flute down toward the ground (as in Figure 7), and positioned the flute very far in front of his body (as in Figure 8). Obviously, an asymmetrical embouchure did not prove much of a hindrance for Mr. Rampal.

These rules are only a basic guide to correcting the angle of the flute to match an asymmetrical embouchure. These rules should not be followed to a level of discomfort or injury. If needed, these may be adapted for each individual's circumstance. For instance, it may be better in some cases of right-sided embouchures to tilt the head to the right (right ear toward the right shoulder) as well as raise the right arm. Similarly, in the case of right-sided embouchures, it may be better to turn the head to the left (the same motion of shaking the head "no") instead of only moving the right arm back. The most important factor is that the embouchure is parallel to the flute embouchure hole.

Hopefully, this information proves a useful tool for band directors and private flute instructors, as well as flutists with teardrops. 🎵



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# 41<sup>st</sup> Annual National Flute Association Convention

## Participants

The annual convention of the National Flute Association will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana beginning on August 8, 2013. The following compilation of events includes performances, lectures, judges, moderators, and panelists featuring Texas flutists. We are blessed to have so many talented and active flutists in Texas. Due to space limitation, the only personnel listed for events at the NFA are Texas artists. A detailed preliminary schedule of events may be found online at <http://www.nfaonline.org/Annual-Convention/>. Congratulations to everyone who will be participating in the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual National Flute Association Convention!

### Wednesday

5:00 pm–10:00 pm: Balcony L

#### **Young Artist Competition, preliminary round**

**Performers:** Chao Wang and Jennifer Piper, students of Terri Sundberg, and Amanda Chavis

### Thursday

8:45am–10 am: Carondele

#### **NFA 2013 Annual Meeting and Jambalaya Flute Orchestra Concert**

Dr. Lindsay Kimbley, performer

11:45 am–12:30 pm: La Galleries Foyer

#### **Flute Ensemble Concert**

**Participants:** Brazos Breeze Flute Choir, with Anna Whitlock Henry, Lisa Book, and Dr. Francesca Arnone, and coordinated by Penny Zent

12:30 pm –1:45 pm: Salon D

#### **Flute Ensemble Concert**

Baylor Chamber Flutes

2:30 pm–4:00 pm: Salon D

#### **Flute Ensemble Concert**

Texas Woman's University/Brookhaven Flute Choir

Friday

8:00 am–9:30 am: Acadia

**Sunrise Concert**

Wayla Chambo, performer

10:15–11:30 am: Acadia

**Chamber Concert: Flute and Harp**

Brazos Ensemble, with Dr. Francesca Arnone

10:15 am–11:30 am: Napoleon Suite

**Lecture: A Gem of a Sound & Sound Sheets**

Terri Sanchez, lecturer

12:15 am–1:45 pm: Acadia

**Chamber Concert**

Brazos Ensemble, with Dr. Francesca Arnone

2:30 pm–4:00 pm: Acadia

**Masterclass Performers: Raffaele Trevisani**

Allison Jayroe, performer -- student of Dr. Francesca Arnone

5:00 pm–6:00 pm: Acadia

**World Premieres**

**Performers:** Wayla Chambo and Lisa Bost-Sandberg

Saturday

10:30 am–12:00 pm: Lafayette

**Lecture: How to Practice and Making Dreams Reality**

Debra Youngblood, lecturer

10:30 am–12:00 pm: Salon E

**Panel: Flute Ensemble Programming—Spice It Up in New Orleans!**

**Moderator:** Dolores August

12:45 pm– 2:00 pm: Lafayette Suite

**Panel: NFA Guide for Flute Clubs**

**Panelists:** Dolores August and Ellen Kaner

2:45 pm– 4:00 pm: Acadia

**Masterclass: Barthold Kuijken—Baroque Flute**

**Performers:** Meg Griffith, Dolores August

5:00 pm– 6:00 pm: Balcony L

**Solo Concert**

Terri Sanchez, performer

Sunday

10:00 am–11:00 am: Salon D

**The NFA Professional Flute Choir**

**Participants:** Cheryl Lamb, Dr. Lindsay Kimbley, Lisa Book, Liz Williamson and Cindy Lin

10:00 am–11:15 am: Carondelet

**Solo Concert: Beatboxing, Extended Techniques, and More**

Lisa Bost-Sandberg, performer

11:15 am–12 pm: Hotel Lobby

**Flutes Unlimited Concert**

Cecilia Hamilton, Dolores August, Lisa Book, Mary Shinn, Kathryn Vinod – performers  
Ellen Kaner, conductor

12:00 pm–1:30 pm: Balcony L

**Piccolo Masterclass Performers: Nicola Mazzanti**

Christian Gonzalez, performer

2:00 pm–3:00 pm: Salon D

**The National High School Flute Choir Concert**

**Participants:** Amanda Branagan, student of Anna Whitlock Henry

2:15 pm–3:15 pm: Acadia

**Solo Concert**

Pam Youngblood, performer