

Newsletter of the Rochester Flute Association



Volume 26 Issue 1

Winter 2021

Virtual Events Keep Members Engaged During Pandemic

Many venerable Rochester area institutions were set to celebrate milestone anniversaries in 2020 and the Rochester Flute Association was no exception. With 25 years as a vibrant flute club, a pandemic was not going to stop the flute activities. In lieu of the annual Flute Fair, virtual events offered free to members have provided and will continue to provide area flutists with activities to keep them engaged and inspired.

The first virtual event was held on Saturday morning, October 24. Meaghan McTammany led a relaxing yoga session via YouTube that emphasized breathing and stretching to benefit musicians.

The second event was led by Flutistry Boston's Adam Workman on the evening of November 19. Adam shared his vast knowledge of flute history which he used to guide the participants into a deeper understanding of what to listen for in historical recordings



such as 78 rpm through CDs. It was delightful to try to guess the year of a recording and who the flutist might be. All in attendance agreed this was an excellent session and expressed the hope for further gatherings to enjoy listening to music together.

Annette Farrington led the third virtual session on December 17. This Zoom meeting introduced flutists to a new way of warming up using drones and accompaniments easily found online for free. Since everyone was required to keep microphones muted, it offered a comfortable way to explore improvisation with modal scales and folk tunes. More sessions are in the planning stages, so watch your email and our website for future announcements for these virtual events.

Rochester Flute Association

Mission

- ♪ To promote the enjoyment and appreciation of the flute.
- ♪ To assist members in achieving musical excellence.
- ♪ To facilitate an exchange of ideas among flutists, teachers, and flute enthusiasts.

Membership Rates for September 2020-August 2021

Corporate \$80; Contributor \$50; Family \$30; Adult \$20;
Student \$10

Membership dues may be sent to:

Rochester Flute Association
ATTN: Membership Director
PO Box 10173, Rochester, NY 14610
rochesterfluteassociation@gmail.com

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Past-president
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Alexandra Barbato
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Kaitlin Schneider
Membership
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2020-2022

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Flute Fair Chair— Marjorie Roth
Social Media Manager — Allison Parramore
Competition Coordinator — Meghan Phillips



The Rochester Flute Association is a registered non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.

rfaonline.org

Letter from the President



Dear RFA Members,

Greetings and good wishes to you as we begin a brand new year. This past year has presented some special surprises, but we are happy to say that despite these challenges the RFA has offered lovely events to our members this Fall, and we continue formulating Plan As and Plan Bs as we face whatever 2021 may bring.

If you have not yet done so, please remember to renew your membership. The Board relies upon membership dues and generous donations as we plan presentations, workshops, concerts, and other events for the coming months, so—don't delay! Renew and/or give today. <http://www.rfaonline.org/to-join.html>

Many thanks to Program Chair Alex Barbato and member Meaghan McTammany for the wonderful October 24 yoga workshop, and also to Corporate Membership Chair Hayley Grainger and Flutistry's Adam Workman for his fascinating November 19 presentation and group discussion on "The Art of Listening." In December, Annette Farrington presented another virtual session, "Warming Up with Backing Tracks." Our fourth virtual event will be a wonderful concert presented by Allison Parramore and Hayley Grainger. More information is in this issue.

As with everything during this pandemic, RFA events for our student members will have to adapt. In previous years, the RFA hosted our Pre-Solo Festival event in January to give students an extra chance to perform their solo before the Monroe County Festival. Due to the County's festival being cancelled this year, we have decided to not hold our Pre-Solo Festival in January. Instead, we will be expanding our Spring Flutopia event in March to offer virtual performing opportunities before the Spring NYSS-MA Solo Festival. Stay tuned for more details.

All the best,
Marjorie Roth



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RFA Virtual Flute Fair Event #4 Features Hayley Grainger and Allison Parramore



 RFA presents

Raise Their Voices: Celebrating Female Composers

Saturday, February 27th 2021 at 3 pm

Allison Parramore and Hayley Grainger

will perform the beloved works of female composers including Allison Loggins-Hull, Valerie Coleman, Rhonda Larson, Katherine Hoover and Cecil Chaminade.



RSVP to receive
the recital link at
www.rfaonline.org

Join us afterwards
for a virtual
reception and
Q&A!



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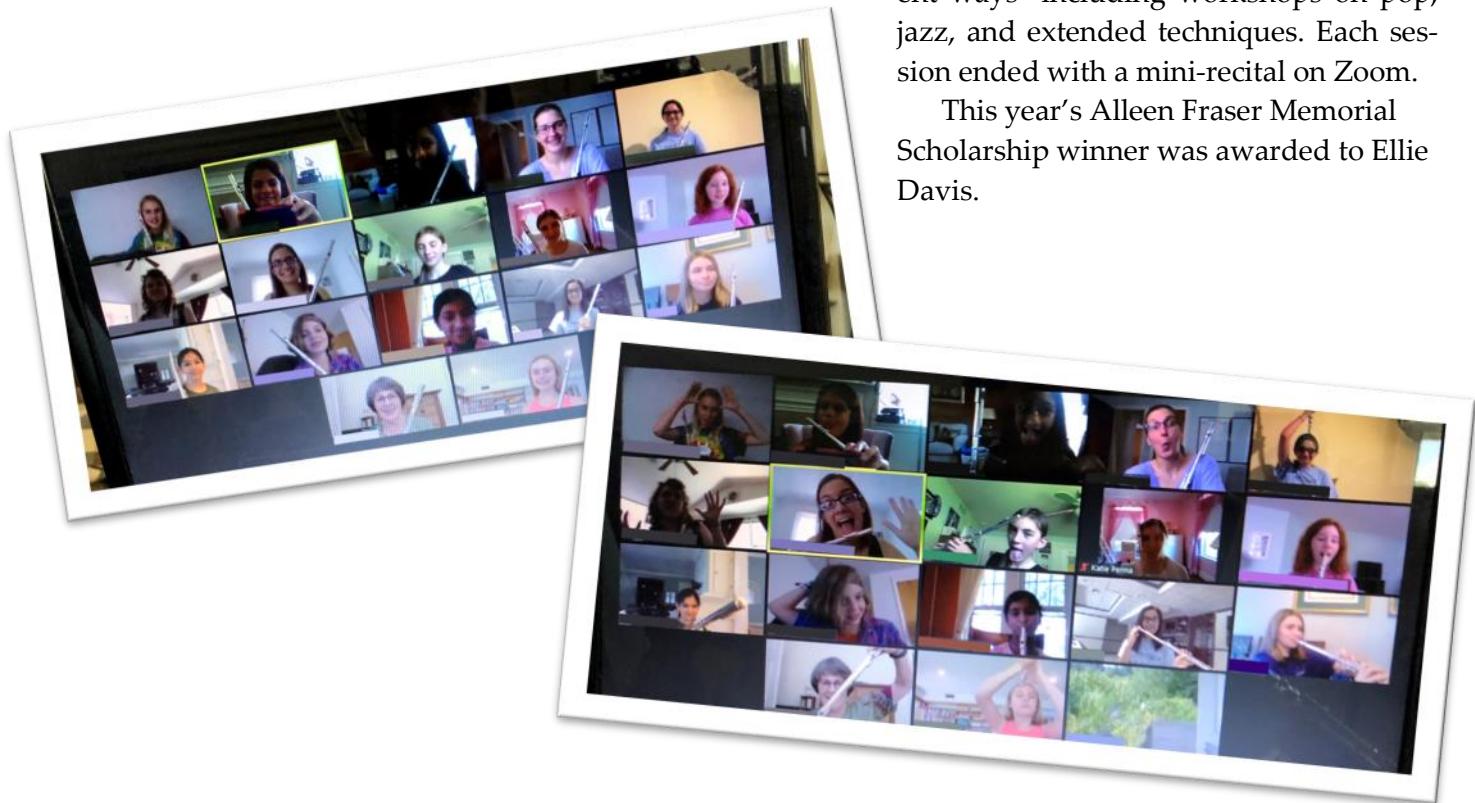
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Flute Camp 2020

The annual summer collaboration between the Hochstein School and the RFA looked a little different this year, but carried on online amidst the pandemic. Fourteen students attended virtual sessions divided into two half-day sessions with an option to stay all day. Virtual camp worked out well under the direction of Alexandra Barbato, Meaghan McTammany and Ashley Moss Fox. Mornings included mini-lessons and workshops on daily practice routines. The mid-point of the day joined both sections where guest panelists gave tips on topics such as solo festivals and ensemble auditions, careers in music, and yoga. The afternoon sessions took a slightly different route, focusing on "fluting in different ways" including workshops on pop, jazz, and extended techniques. Each session ended with a mini-recital on Zoom.

This year's Alleen Fraser Memorial Scholarship winner was awarded to Ellie Davis.



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- ♪ Congratulations to Yi Xiang, a DMA student of Bonnie Boyd, who has just won First Prize in the Texas Flute Society's International Myna Brown Flute Competition. In addition, Yi won the prize for the best performance of the Competition's newly commissioned work. Yi also won the 2020 Seattle Flute Society's Young Artists Competition, and First Place in the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition and the Award for the Best Performance of the Newly Commissioned Work. Yi will play a solo recital at next year's NFA Convention in Washington, D.C.
- ♪ Congratulations to DMA student Yidi Song, from Bonnie Boyd's studio, who recently won First Place in the Arizona Flute Association's Collegiate Young Artist Competition, and First Prize in the South Carolina Flute Society's 2020 Young Artist Competition.



Congratulations to RFA Membership Director, Jen Ford, and her husband, Byron on the birth of their second child. Bennett Wilson Ford was born on October 30, 2020.

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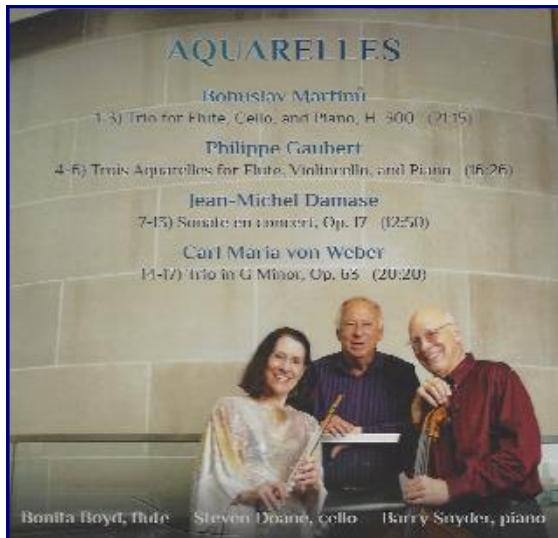
CD Release Online Event

You are cordially invited to join the online celebration of the *Aquarelles* CD release featuring long-time Eastman faculty artists Bonita Boyd, flute, Steven Doane, cello, and Barry Snyder, piano, January 22, 2021 at 7 PM. This virtual webinar event will be moderated by WXXI's Julia Figueras.

The program of *Aquarelles* consists of four works that are classics of the chamber repertory for flute, cello, and piano: trios from the 19th century by Carl Maria von Weber and the 20th century by Bohuslav Martinů; *Sonate en concert* by Jean-Michel Damase; and the work that gives the CD its title, *Trois Aquarelles* by Philippe Gaubert.

The CD liner notes were written by Dr. Marjorie Roth.

To join this webinar event registration is required; included are panel discussions and guest appearances from Rich Wattie, Thomas Moore, Marjorie Roth, Henrik Soderstrom, Becky and David Starobin. Boyd shares, "the collaborations from these wonderful artists, including musicologist, producer, engineer, and key players from the Starobins of Bridge Records, will round out this wonderful event."



"I am so thrilled about the release of this new CD of major trios for flute, cello, and piano, with my world class colleagues Barry Snyder and Steven Doane," says Bonita Boyd. "We have worked together over many years, and I consider them both to be among the greatest artists of their time, so this is indeed a joy for me! We invite you all to celebrate the release of *Aquarelles* with us online—a bright spot in this challenging time!"

Register for this free event at https://rochester.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R2qWPGXkSEK0FHtT7JvMQ

Click [here](#) to purchase the CD.



Congratulations

to the winners of the 2020 RFA Virtual Performance Competition

High School Category

Winner: Lindsey Chalmers

College/Emerging Artist

Winner: Katie Riley

Honorable Mentions: Alexander Day and
Yechan Min

Adult

Winner: Miriam Nussbaum

Honorable Mention: Natalie Ramesh

Piccolo Competition

High School Winner: Abi Black

College Winner: Yi Xiang

College Honorable Mention: Linda Jenkins

Junior Grades 5-6

First place: Raeha Khazanchi

Second place: Lyla Ellicott

Third place: Lilianna Fietkiewicz

Junior Grades 7-8

First place: Charlotte Choi

Second place: Veronica Tavolette

Third place: Ellie Davis

Honorable mention with distinction:
Camryn Wlostowski

Honorable mentions: Elsa Scheidmantel and
Oscar Fenster



The RFA would like to express its sincerest appreciation to Jan Angus and Hayley Grainger for sponsoring the Piccolo Competition. We also extend our thanks to Laura Lentz who arranged for a new work to be written just for the Junior Competition, *Silver Wishes* by Wilhelmina Esary.

Appreciation is also extended to all the judges: Alexandra Barbato, Webster Central Schools; Christine Davis, Buffalo Philharmonic; Amelia Dicks, Chattanooga Symphony and Opera; Sarah Fischer-Croneis, Twelve Corners Middle School (Brighton); Lily Josefsberg, New York Philharmonic; Angela Lombardo, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra; Connor Nelson, University of Wisconsin Madison; Naomi Seidman, Penn State; Tom Via.

This year's competition drew a record 44 participants. The judges were impressed with everyone's high performance level. Kudos to everyone who participated.

This event would not have been possible without the tireless, volunteer work of Competition Coordinators, Meghan Phelps and Laura Lentz. Their cheerful and enthusiastic organizational efforts made this a tremendous success.

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Pandemic Inspiration From Some of Our Members

ALEXANDRA BARBATO
RFA Program Chair,
Accompanist at Webster Central Schools



While the pandemic has proven to be quite a challenging time for performing music, I have been as proactive as I can be to continue to make music by myself and with others! In the beginning of the pandemic I decided I would start to participate in a Facebook group that I have followed for several years called Etude of the Week. Flutists from all over the world work on a set of etudes, completing one a week, and post it to the page. Flutists of all levels participate in this, some to hold themselves accountable, some ask for feedback, some give their own mini lessons on the etudes and their practice techniques! For me, I used this as an opportunity to not only hold myself accountable to a high level of practice, but to also work on memorizing. I successfully completed the Johannes Donjon *Etudes de Salon*, posting on Facebook every week with the etudes memorized! I also play music with my fiancé who is learning to play classical guitar. I participated in virtual ensembles, played a few small gigs throughout the summer, and continued to teach in my private lesson studio. I have thirty students who have remained completely dedicated to their study of flute and piano with me, and who have recently completed a full virtual recital to end 2020. I am looking forward to future events with the RFA and getting to see so many members in the future.



JAMES VATTER
Owner Creative
Piano Teaching in
East Syracuse

I have kept busy watching YouTube tutorials by April Clayton and Roderick Seed. I also performed in the Wisconsin Flute Fair class on the topic of Marcel Moyse's *24 Little Melodies*. I observed Zoom classes with Lish Lindsey on Marias *Les Folies*, and the virtual sessions presented by the RFA. I continue to work on solos and etudes.



LAURA LENTZ
Artistic Director at five-byfive, Adjunct Flute
Professor at RIT, Laura Lentz Flute Studio



The idea for creating *9 Comfort Pieces for Solo Flute* began when I saw cellist Yo-Yo Ma sharing various comforting melodies on social media during the COVID-19 pandemic. He encouraged other musicians around the world to join him in offering "Songs of Comfort." His empathy, compassion, and use of music to comfort others was inspiring.

Not long after, Olivia Kieffer posted a call asking for composers to send her their toy piano miniatures. I loved this idea. The pieces, all new to her, helped her stay motivated as a performer and as a composer.

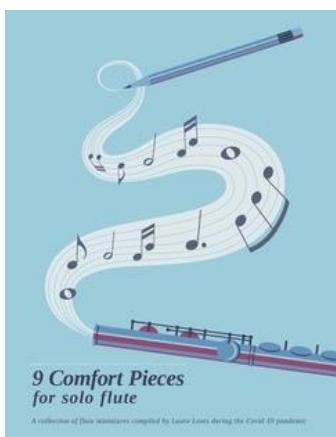
Both Yo-Yo Ma and Olivia Kieffer turned to music to temper collective feelings of fear, anxiety, and helplessness. I know that I had been feeling overwhelmed, missing my students, my musical colleagues, and my friends. I did not know where to direct my creative energy and had many difficult days. Watching others use music to manage negative feelings gave me a sense of hope, so I began in March 2020 by asking composer friends for pieces that were comforting. I left it fairly open-ended, asking for music for solo alto, bass, or C flute.

Between March and June 2020 I received nine miniatures written or

(Continued on page 8)

Pandemic Inspiration, cont.

(Continued from page 7)



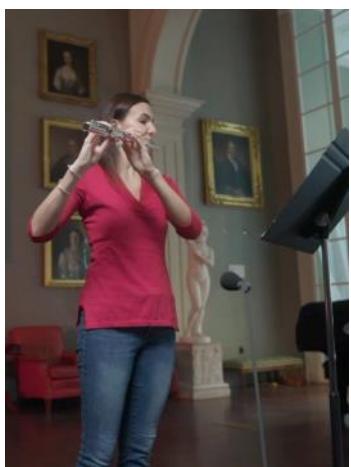
arranged for me, ranging in length from 30 seconds long to a little over 2 minutes. Olivia Kieffer, one of the initial inspirations for the project, ended up being the first composer to send me a piece! As I received this and other pieces, I felt a renewed sense of purpose and connection as part of a larger community coping and dealing together with an extraordinary situation. I felt less alone and newly motivated. I loved working with each composer on their piece. I sent them recordings, they responded, and I worked to apply their ideas.

As I was working on these pieces I noticed how each composer very clearly explored emotions, feelings and thoughts that most likely were ones with which we were all coping—sorrow, loss, anxiety, separation, and a sense of void. One composer reflects on an increased need for intentionality in our communication, and another explores the human impact on the natural world. And then, reminding us of the good in life, one composer lifts us up and transports us with the joy of samba. Through music we can certainly forget the troubled world around us for a moment. 100 percent of proceeds from these pieces are donated to the United Way Community Crisis Fund. To donate and receive the collection: please visit www.lauralentzflute.com. Suggested donation: \$12

I have also been proud of three videos of new music that my quintet *fivebyfive* has released in collaboration with The George Eastman Museum. I am working on another solo project, a collection of pieces inspired by nature, called *Nature Pieces* by 11 composers. All proceeds will go to benefit two organizations working to fight climate change. For more information: lauralentzflute.com and fivebyfivemusic.com



ALLISON PARRAMORE
RFA Social Media
Manager, Music
Lecturer at Ithaca
College



Although 2020 brought many cancelled performances, it also brought a new and exploratory way to experience music, some of which I hope will persevere even after this pandemic. I'm grateful to serve as the principal flutist for Phoenix, a Boston-based orchestra committed to providing social and accessible concert experiences for all audiences.

As a result of the unexpected halt to our planned 2020 season, Phoenix created *The Chronophone*: a 16-episode video series that explores the history behind traditional and non-traditional music from the 1600's to today, featuring the musicians of Phoenix. Recorded live in places such as the Boston Athenaeum and WGBH, Phoenix musicians have produced episodes with music from the Baroque and Classical eras. I am grateful for the opportunity to record one of the beloved solos from the flute repertoire, the *Sonata in A minor* by C.P.E. Bach, and also participate in a live interview during the premiere. In 2021, I'm looking forward to contributing more to *The Chronophone* with my recordings of *Syrinx* by Claude Debussy, *Homeland* by Allison Loggins-Hull, and *Memento* by Dana Wilson. For more information: www.phoenixorch.org www.allisonparramore.com

HALEY GRAINGER
Second Flute/Piccolo,
Rochester Philharmonic
Orchestra
Flute Instructor, Eastman
Community Music School



As the months of the pandemic roll along, I continue to be inspired by the ways that the music lives on in our city. Although the concert halls still remain dark, local artists find creative ways to connect with audiences. Whether it is in the plethora of streamed performances, personalized Zoom concerts, or even outdoor musical offerings, the music can't be stopped.

Saturday, November 7, was one of those last warm and sunny days in Rochester before winter truly set in. It was a wonderful day for live music and I was thrilled to play a pop-up concert downtown at the Liberty Pole with RPO colleagues, Grace Browning and Willa Finck. We performed a mix of baroque sonatas, romantic melodies, and popular songs for anyone who was out and about. It was such a joy to play for a live audience - to see smiles on faces, hear applause, take song requests and have meaningful conversations with passerbys who wanted to chat.

The connection shared between audience members and performers is a beautifully unique experience, one that will always be necessary for both groups. As an orchestral musician who went from performing multiple concerts a week, to maybe a performance every month or so, I will never take for granted the wonder of a live performance. When I consider the positives that have come out of these past months, I am grateful for this heightened appreciation for each and every performance.

Before I headed to Boston for my undergraduate studies, my teacher told me that it was as important as my practice to go to every concert that I could. I took her advice and spent every Saturday night at the Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts (for free, thanks to their amazing College Card program). I was amazed by a performance of Karl Amadues Hartmann's "Concerto funebre" for violin by Alina Ibragimova; but perhaps an even greater takeaway was a quotation from the composer in the program notes: "No artist can sidestep their commitment to humanity". During these challenging times, I find myself reflecting on this message and am reminded of our need for connection through music. May we continue to creatively engage with one another through these unprecedented times and beyond."

Please support our Corporate Sponsors during this pandemic. They go above and beyond to provide quality sales and service for all our flute needs.