Bold and New Flute Music
Concert by Grantees from FFF Program
February 11, 2018
Friends of Flutes Foundation
Bold and New Flute Music
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FFF Grantees, with Linda Mark, piano

Sonata, FP 164
Allegro melinconico
Francis Poulenc
(1899-1965)

Louna Dekker-Vargas

I Sonata
Heiter bewegt
Paul Hindemith
(1895-1963)

DeShaun Gordon-King

East Wind
Shulamit Ran
(1949-)

Michelle Stockman

Canzone, Op. 38a
Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

Amir Farsi
Loops 1 for solo flute

Philippe Hurel
(1955-)

Alexander Ishov

Sonata, Op. 23
Lento con rubato

Lowell Lieberman
(1961-)

James Blanchard

Duo for flute and piano
Flowing

Aaron Copland
(1900-1990)

David Le

Traffic Jam

Ricky Lombardo
(1946-)

The High-Lows
Conducted by Mary Barto
Biographies

James Blanchard
James received a grant from FFF to attend the Texas Music Festival in the summer of 2017 to participate in the chamber music and orchestral program and a grant to attend the Sarasota Music Festival in Florida in the summer of 2016. James is currently at Juilliard for his Masters degree, studying with Robert Langevin. He has a Bachelor of Music from Rice University where he studied with Leone Buyse.

In his post-summer report, he told us of performing the first movement of the Nielsen Flute Concerto by memory as part of a concerto competition. As he said “I grew significantly while preparing for the competition.” He did well and came in second!

Louna Dekker-Vargas
Louna is one of our earliest grantees, including a grant in 2011 to help her buy a new head joint for her silver flute. She received another FFF grant in 2014 to study French flute music at the Academie International de Nice. She has her degree from Peabody Conservatory where she studied with Marina Piccinini, as well as a degree in French Literature from Johns Hopkins University.

FFF Board members attended Louna’s 2014 concert in the 1881 Landmark Sanctuary of the Historical Manhattan Seventh Day Adventist Church on West 11th Street. Louna beautifully played two masterpieces of the French Flute repertoire by Debussy and Messiaen. Louna has given several other concerts in New York, including in a trio at an Imani Winds event in 2017. She is now also part of flute chamber groups using the FFF alto flute, which had been donated to FFF by the Flute Center of New York.

Amir Farsi
Amir received a grant from FFF in 2015 to travel to Germany for an audition for Hochschule fur Musik, where he was accepted, and one in 2014 to attend Jim Walker’s Beyond the Masterclass summer program. Amir is currently getting a Master’s degree in Flute Performance at the Yale School of Music studying under Ransom Wilson. He has his Bachelors degree from Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, studying under Marina Piccinini.

DeShaun Gordon-King
DeShaun received a grant from FFF to attend the World Wind Youth Orchestra in Schladming, Austria in the summer of 2017. DeShaun is an aspiring flutist, composer and arts education. He has a Master’s degree
in Flute Performance and an Advanced Certificate in Music Education from NYU Steinhardt, as well as a BA from Duke University. DeShaun studied with Keith Underwood.

In his application he wrote: “As a lover of new music working with living composers is the heart of my art. Being able to travel to Austria and work with . . . composers is crucial in developing my network.” In his report, he said “I was able to . . . work with living composers. Working with these living composers helps to further a platform of my career in which I advocate for the creation of new works.”

Alexander Ishov
Alex received a grant from FFF to attend an audition in Frankfurt Germany. Alex has his Bachelors in Flute Performance from Eastman School of Music, where he studied with Bonita Boyd.

Alex told us he reached the final round in the audition and it was a “fantastic opportunity to perform for such an esteemed panel of musicians.” Alex is now performing in New York with a contemporary music ensemble called Ensemble Signal.

David Le
David is receiving a grant from FFF for a tour of his “East meets West” concert at the Florida Flute Association Convention and for workshops at The University of South Florida and at Florida State University. David has a Masters in Flute Performance (2017) from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, studying with Marina Piccinini, and a Bachelors degree from the University of South Florida.

Michelle Stockman
Michelle recently performed “Isles of Shoals” by Michael Colina, a Flute Concerto, with The Chelsea Symphony. Her performance (a World Premier) at St. Paul’s German Evangelical Lutheran Church in New York City on January 27, 2018 was made possible by a grant from FFF. The grant was used to rent the score and parts of the music, as well as to rent the celeste needed for the composition. FFF Board members attended the concert and in our words: “It was glorious music beautifully played by Michelle.”

Michelle has a Masters in Flute Performance from Mannes The New School for Music and an undergraduate degree in Flute Performance from the Hartt School, University of Hartford.
In additions to our grantees, we have The High-Lows performing today:

The High-Lows
This Flute Ensemble was founded and is directed by Mary Barto. It is a group of 9 amateur flute players (various ages and backgrounds) who rehearse every Tuesday night for 2-1/2 hours.
Today’s performance is by Sarah Friedlander and Kathy Shah on PICCOLO; Betsy Bryden, Mary Lynn Hanley and Arlene Moskowitz on C FLUTES; Nora E. North on ALTO FLUTE; and Judith Thoyer on BASS FLUTE.

Mary Barto is the Music Director for the Friends of Flutes Foundation, and a Board member of FFF. She is a former member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and has also played with the New York Philharmonic, New York City Opera, New York City Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre. She was the coordinator of the Adult Division Chamber Music at Lucy Moses School and where she is now a Chamber Music Coach. She is an Associate Professor at Mannes School of Music and an Assistant Professor at Hunter College. She also is an Adjunct Instructor of Flute at Columbia University Teachers College and Fordham University.

And we have our pianist:

Linda Mark is in demand as a chamber musician and music coach throughout the United States and Europe. Linda regularly performed with her mentor Julius Baker and performs with flutists Robert Langevin, Jeffrey Khaner and Bart Feller, and many others. She has performed for the emperor of Japan at the Kennedy Center and recorded the soundtrack for the film Song Without Words, which was shown at the Berlin Film Festival. Linda is member of the collaborative piano staff at The Juilliard School.
We hope you enjoy today’s performance and thank you for your support