

FLUTE NOTES

APRIL/MAY 2016



TFC Calendar

Events

- APR 13 REHEARSAL
- APR 17 REHEARSAL, 1-2:30 pm in the Children's Chapel (SUNDAY!)
- APR 20 REHEARSAL
- APR 27 REHEARSAL
- MAY 4 DRESS REHEARSAL
- MAY 8 CONCERT, 3 PM** in the East Gallery at St. Philip's, 4440 N. Campbell Ave. *Call time is 2:15 pm. Dress is black pants, black shoes and socks, TFC purple polo shirt. Please bring a dessert to share.*

Meet in Bloom Music Center at St. Philip's In The Hills Episcopal Church, Campbell Avenue at River Road. Please bring a stand and plan to arrive 10 minutes early so that you can get set up/warmed up/talk to your friends! Send any questions to Sandy Schwoebel at sandyschwoebel@aol.com.

Tentative Summer Schedule — *dates will be confirmed via messages on TFC's Yahoo Group — make sure you are a member!*

- June 29 Rehearsal
- July 6 Rehearsal
- July 13 Rehearsal
- July 20 Rehearsal
- July 27 Rehearsal
- Aug 3 Rehearsal

Performance sometime August 11-14 in San Diego. *Summer rehearsals are 6:30-8 pm. Don't forget!*

Got News?

The next Flute Notes deadline is June 1. Send your news to sandyschwoebel@aol.com.

President's Letter

Thank you all for attending rehearsals and giving attention to Miller Asbill as he conducted our group through rehearsals and the concert at Far Horizons on March 23. The variety of music he chose and the ability of our group to perform the challenging pieces was inspirational. We look forward to continued success with Juan Montoya as he conducts TFC in preparation for the member's recital on May 8.

Again, we give special thanks to Sandy Schwoebel for organizing our music folders and communicating with both conductor finalists.

It's time to look forward to the National Flute Association Convention in San Diego, August 11-14. For those of you who have never attended a national convention, prepare yourselves for a real treat!! In addition to the excellent seminars on every aspect of playing the flute, the vendors have an incredible array of instruments and music. All this, plus listening to remarkable flute music. More information is on page 5.

Usually, our schedule winds down as the summer months approach. However, this year we'll continue rehearsing in June & July in preparation for the San Diego convention (see rehearsal schedule at left). As you know, TFC will be performing with members of the Arizona Flute Society at the convention.

Let's continue making beautiful music together!!

— Judy Bolt, President



Madera Winds

Since 1985

Wm. F. Balentine
 Doctor of Musical Arts
 Custom Piccolo Heads
 Fine World Class Piccolos
 Factory Trained Woodwind Technician

Office (520) 399-4713 • Cell (520) 270-3976
www.maderawinds.net

Spotlight on: Thora Vervoren

by Jerry Ervin

As Juliet asked Romeo, “What’s in a name?” Clearly Thora Vervoren has encountered the question as well. “Thora is Danish,” she chuckles, “and Vervoren is Dutch.”

Particulars? Not many. “I only know that my grandparents came from those two countries,” she says, adding, “All four immigrated through Ellis Island. I would say it was the latter part of the 1800s. My father was the youngest of eighteen children . . .” Wait, wait! EIGHTEEN? Yes, indeed. “. . . and they all lived.” Thora thinks the family went to the Green Bay, WI, area because of a relative who was already farming there.

As for the size of the family, she says simply, “They needed people to work the farm.”

Likewise, her Danish forbears settled near Green Bay, in an area known as Duck Creek. Theirs was a church connection: “My mother’s family was Moravian, and there were two Moravian churches that had already been established in Green Bay.”

Despite her grandparents’ agrarian roots, Thora was brought up as a city girl in Green Bay. Her father was a Jewel Tea route man, making home deliveries of coffee, tea, and other commodities. “Then he got tired of working for somebody, so he formed his own company” and began importing coffee beans. He ground, blended, and prepared them for sale in a big warehouse next to their home.

When Thora was twelve, her father died. As he was the youngest of the siblings, a number



of Thora’s paternal aunts and uncles had predeceased him. “I’d been to two or three funerals before that,” she notes. “[But] after my dad died, we sort of lost track of that family. I don’t know any of them.” What Thora does recall is that her father’s death occurred on the heels of the Great Depression, as World War II was starting. Needless to say, things were not good.

Fortunately, Thora’s mother had been a grade school teacher, which was unusual for the time because, says Thora, “In those days they didn’t hire married women to teach.” So, to make ends meet, her mother took on a second job teaching English

and other skills to immigrants. “She taught in the daytime and she taught at night.”

Thora had started taking piano lessons at age ten. “My mother had a brother and a sister, and they had no children. My mother’s sister thought it would be a good idea if I took piano lessons,” which she obligingly paid for.

When Thora entered high school, she thought that it’d be fun to play in the band. “So I went to the bandmaster.” He said she might enjoy flute, and thus it turned out. “We all got fifteen minutes [of instruction] per week from him,” she recalls. It worked out reasonably well, since thanks to her piano studies, Thora could already read music.

At the end of Thora’s freshman year in high school, her aunt thought it would be a good experience for her to go to Maine, where the aunt and her husband spent the summers. “So I went

continued on page 3

to the New England Music Camp in Maine.” [The camp—NEMC—is still in business.] “I went on the train with my ration book.” World War II was still going on.

Thora recalls having a great time at NEMC, and the next summer her aunt thought it might be nice for her to go to the Interlochen music camp. Her mother agreed, and despite the family’s shaky economic situation, bought her a flute. And it wasn’t just any flute: “She scraped together \$500 to buy me a Haynes. An open-hole model.” Thora still plays it, often thinking about how much it meant to her mother to get her that flute, “and how pleased she’d be that I’m still playing it.” (Many years later, when Thora had the instrument serviced, it was valued at over \$10,000.)

Thora attended Interlochen for two summers. “I played in the band and the orchestra,” she laughs, “but I guess I was more of a camper than a musician.” She didn’t get any of the music prizes, she says, but she did win the “Best Camper” award. “And I met wonderful people from all over the country, friends I’ve had all my life.”

Another musical experience that Thora remembers fondly was being selected for a program run by the New York Philharmonic. “They took high school kids and brought them to New York. I met Francis Poulenc and Lauritz Melchior [also a Dane!], and I got to sit in the NY Philharmonic flute section with John Wummer.”

Thora graduated from high school as valedictorian, winning an academic scholarship to the University of Wisconsin. “I think tuition that year was \$50 per semester,” she recalls. She did her first year at the university’s extension branch in Green Bay so that she could live at home. During that year she played flute in the Green Bay Symphony, but that ended the following year when she transferred to the university’s main campus in Madison.

Thora was originally hoping to become a chemist. “My dream was to work for 3M in Minneapolis.” But after two years as a chemistry student, she changed her major to pharmacy.

Music, however, was still in her blood. “I went to the dean of the pharmacy school and said I’d like to play in the band. They didn’t have women in the marching band, but you could be in

the concert band. ‘Thora,’ he said, ‘you either go to pharmacy school or you play in the band.’ So that’s when I stopped playing, and I didn’t play anything for the next 50 years.”

Thora recalls that it was a different era for aspiring pharmacists back then. “In those days there were only four women in the pharmacy program out of a class of 100. They were mostly fellows who were going to go back and work with their dad in the family pharmacy.” Not Thora. For her internship she got a job in a retail pharmacy in Milwaukee. “I had a wonderful internship there, handling not just prescription drugs, but also providing equipment to doctors in the area.”

Soon after the end of her internship, and at the behest of her mother—“You really should find a place where you can get better meals,” she said—Thora took a job at Milwaukee’s Columbia Hospital. “I went there for a couple of reasons. One was to make my mother happy. Secondly, the woman in charge was pregnant.” The potential that presented was not lost on Thora.

But hold on: “I wasn’t there more than six weeks when a couple of friends wanted to go to Europe.” They invited Thora to go along (“There’s an extra place on the boat”), so Thora requested and received permission from her employer to make the trip, “if you’ll come back in six weeks when I’m going to have this baby,” she said. The year was 1954.

Thora remembers this trip to early post-War Europe very well. “We landed in France, got a Renault and drove it through France and Germany.” Also Italy. “We saw ruins everywhere.”

They even went into Yugoslavia—behind the Iron Curtain—to take \$3,000 to the boyfriend of a fellow U of Wisconsin pharmacy student who hoped the boyfriend would thus be able to buy his way out of the country. When they made contact with the young man, “[h]e said there was no way that he could get out with that money. So he told us to take it to somebody he didn’t know but had heard of in Munich.” They went to Germany, found those people, left them the \$3,000, and traveled on. “It had a happy ending: He came to Milwaukee, married our friend and got his Ph.D. in engineering.”

Thora concluded her European trip by visit-

continued on page 4

ing Denmark: "I thought I'd never go to Europe again." She took the train to Copenhagen and then flew home.

When she got back to Milwaukee she returned to her old job at Columbia Hospital. The supervisor had her baby, and Thora—a relatively recent pharmacy graduate, it must be noted—became Director of Pharmacy at what was probably the leading hospital in Milwaukee at the time. "I was there for 40 years," she says, during which time she rose through the ranks. "The last ten years of my pharmaceutical life I was vice president of the hospital."

During her career Thora also served two terms on the state pharmacy examining board and was appointed to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. She retired in 1991, having witnessed and presided over huge changes both at her hospital and in the field of pharmacy in general.

Thora did a considerable amount of international travel with two Swiss friends—mostly in Europe, but also in Africa. She also did a number of Elderhostels [now known as the Road Scholar program], many of them in southern Arizona. This was no accident: She was looking for—and found here—a place to retire. "This is my nineteenth year here, believe it or not."

An avid bird watcher, Thora notes that southern Arizona offers a particularly rich birding environment. But she's also done a number of international birding trips, including forays to Iceland, Canada, Costa Rica, and Peru. "I'm looking for one particular bird that I haven't seen; it's called a painted bunting."

Thora also enjoys reading: "Mostly mysteries," she says, citing John Grisham and Sue Grafton among her favorite authors. And though she has been a regular on the tennis courts—she still enjoys competing—one of Thora's few concessions to the passage of time is to be gradually transitioning from tennis to golf. "You don't have to run," she explains, further noting that at age 85 she can lay claim to being one of TFC's oldest members.

It was fellow tennis player and TFC member Priscilla Small who, upon learning that Thora had played flute in high school, suggested she join TFC. Thora did so, also taking lessons for a time with TFC member Lillian Porter.

A snowbird, Thora now owns a home in Sun City—coincidentally, in the same development where TFC founder Phil Swanson lives. For the summers she returns to her condo in Milwaukee, where she plays in the local university/community orchestra. Eventually, however ("When I don't drive any more"), she plans to settle permanently in Tucson.

Do that, Thora! It's great having you in TFC, and one day you just might spot that painted bunting here. ■

TFC's May 8 Concert & Dessert Reception

Our Member's Recital will have a different format this year. Since the concert is being directed by one of the finalists for the Music Director position, it will be more like a regular TFC performance. However, there are one or two slots during which small ensembles can play. If you are interested in performing, please let Sandy know ASAP.

The concert will be held at 3 pm on Sunday, May 8 in the East Gallery at St. Philip's. It is free and open to the public. Please invite your family and friends!

As has been our custom for many years, we will invite the audience to join us for a dessert reception immediately following the performance. Please bring a dessert to share!

Many thanks for your patience with all this. We'll get back to a regular Members' Recital in 2017.



**FLUTE
INC.
SPECIALISTS**
Serving The Needs Of Flutists

It's easier than ever to contact us for purchases and repairs...

- **Shop Online:** www.flutespecialists.com
- **Email:** info@flutespecialists.com

(248) 589-9346 

606 S. Rochester Road • Clawson, MI 48017

NFA Convention Information

TFC has been invited to perform at the 2016 National Flute Association Convention in San Diego, August 11-14. We'll be performing with flutists from the Arizona Flute Society on a program entitled "Arizona Flutes United," conducted by Kelly Via (day and time still not confirmed). The conventions are a lot of fun! There are plenty of concerts, classes, competitions and vendors!

The program for the concert will be the same as the combined pieces we performed in Phoenix last October, with the addition of the world premiere of William Bradley Roberts' new composition for flute choir (see article at right).

All current members of TFC are invited to perform with us — please email Sandy if you're interested (sandyschwoebel@aol.com). We plan to rehearse during late June and July (see page 1). Performers will need to register for the convention. This means you have to join the NFA (a one-year e-membership costs \$70 unless you are a student) and pay for at least a one-day badge (\$155; a full 4-day badge is \$275). The registration form is included with this newsletter, or you can find it online at <http://www.nfaonline.org/Annual-Convention/Fees-and-Registration.aspx>. The NFA office needs to **receive your registration before July 26!** You can still register in person at the convention, but the fees are a little higher.

Information about the venue (the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center) is at <http://www.nfaonline.org/Annual-Convention/Hotel-and-Travel.aspx>. There are also discounts on Amtrak, United Airlines, Delta and Super Shuttle: <http://www.nfaonline.org/Annual-Convention/Hotel-and-Travel.aspx#Flying>.

Questions? Contact sandyschwoebel@aol.com.



PO Box 24688, Tempe, AZ 85285-4688
www.arizonaflutesociety.org

TFC's Annual Meeting

TFC's annual meeting will take place directly following the May 8 concert.

This is when we elect board members for the coming year. If you are interested in serving on the board, please let Judy or another existing board member know and we'll add your name to the ballot.

TFC Commission

Last year, TFC's board of directors approved a motion to commission a new flute choir work in celebration of TFC's 45th anniversary.

William Bradley Roberts was chosen to compose the work. Roberts has deep ties to Tucson and TFC, having lived and worked here for nearly a decade. And he was the Music Director at St. Philip's who invited us to rehearse at the church.

We will premiere his new flute choir work at the NFA convention this August.

TFC's Yahoo Group

If you are NOT a member of TFC's Yahoo Group, be sure to join so that you get all updates about summer rehearsals and convention plans. Just send a note to tucsonfluteclub-subscribe@yahoo.com. You'll get an invitation back to join — then just click the box and you're in!

TFC Board of Directors

Judy Bolt, President; jbolt1945@gmail.com

Jill Klein, Vice-President; jagjill@aol.com

Paul Scott, Secretary & Webmaster;
waterhorse@ultrasw.com

Sandy Schwoebel, Treasurer and Membership;
sandyschwoebel@aol.com

Laurie Mering, Concert Coordinator;
lauriemering@comcast.net

Jerry Ervin; erwin7841@gmail.com

Karen Ward-Parente; wkflute@comcast.net

Non-board Appointments

Imogene Helm & Rebecca Malone, Co-Librarians

Heather McKeag, Historian



THE NATIONAL FLUTE ASSOCIATION, INC.
44th ANNUAL CONVENTION | SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
TOWN AND COUNTRY RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER | AUGUST 11-14, 2016

ADVANCE REGISTRATION (Must be received in NFA office before July 26, 2016)

STEP 1 – NAME/ADDRESS Complete a separate form for each registration. Registration will not be accepted without a full name. Print or type clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

STEP 2 – MEMBERSHIP	One Year Regular	One Year Electronic	Two Year Regular (save \$5) (Auto-renewal is available online)	Two Year Electronic (save \$5) (Auto-renewal is available online)	
Active USA	\$85	\$70			\$ _____
Active Canada/Mexico**	\$107	\$70			\$ _____
Active Outside N. America**	\$116	\$70			\$ _____
Student USA*	\$50	\$40	\$95	\$75	\$ _____
Student Canada/Mexico**	\$72	\$40	\$139	\$75	\$ _____
Student Outside N. America**	\$81	\$40	\$157	\$75	\$ _____
Commercial USA	\$155	\$125	\$305	\$245	\$ _____
Commercial Canada/Mexico**	\$177	\$125	\$349	\$245	\$ _____
Commercial Active Outside N. America**	\$186	\$125	\$367	\$245	\$ _____
Life Member					\$2,500 \$ _____

* Full-time students only. Institution name: _____

I attest that I am a full-time student at the above named institution.

** includes International mailing fee.

Teacher Directory Listing \$10 (one year) \$20 (two year) \$ _____

STEP 3 – REGISTRATION
 Full Convention Registration (2-4 days) **Active/Commercial/Life** \$275 **Student** \$145 \$ _____

One Day Registration (Choose day)
 Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday \$155 \$85 \$ _____

Non-Flutist Guest (must be accompanied by NFA member. Includes 1-4 days, all events) _____ \$80 per person \$ _____

Name: Guest 1 _____ Name: Guest 2 _____ Name: Guest 3 _____
 Name(s) must be provided for badges. User a separate sheet if necessary. Guests under 8 admitted free when accompanied by an adult, but must have a badge.

STEP 4 – OTHER EVENTS
 NFA Gala Awards Dinner, Saturday, August 13, 2016 - 6:00 pm _____ \$125 (\$40 tax deductible) _____ \$1250 Table for 10 \$ _____
 Honoring 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients Katherine Hoover and James Pellerite.

Gala Dinner Attendee Name(s): _____

Flute Lovers' Lunch – Friday August 12, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm _____ \$45 per person \$ _____
 Guest Speaker: Göran Marcusson

Teachers Breakfast – Saturday August 13, 8:00 – 9:00 am _____ \$35 per person \$ _____
 Guest Speaker: Bonita Boyd

STEP 5 – MAKE A DONATION
 Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. _____ \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ Other \$ _____

Please apply my donation to: _____ General Operating Account This donation is:
 _____ General Endowment Fund (Haynes Challenge) in honor of _____
 _____ Frances Blaisdell Fund in memory of _____
 _____ David Hart Fund
 _____ Myrna Brown Fund

STEP 6 – PARTICIPATE
 Check below to receive more information about volunteering and/or participating in the 2016 opening flute orchestra.
 Volunteering at the 2016 Convention 2016 Pacific Coast Flute Orchestra

STEP 7 – PAYMENT
 MasterCard Visa Discover Check Enclosed Payable to: The National Flute Association, Inc. TOTAL \$ _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Card Holder Name _____ Security Code _____

Billing Address (if different from above) _____

Signature _____
 Your signature signifies acknowledgement and acceptance of the NFA cancellation and refund policy, as well as agreement to payment as stated above.

Submit completed form (including signature) and payment before July 26, 2016 to:
 National Flute Association
 Attn: Convention Registration
 70 East Lake Street, Suite 200
 Chicago, IL 60601
 Phone: (312) 332-6682 | Fax (312) 332-6684
kmayo@nfaonline.org | www.nfaonline.org

Cancellation and refund policy for convention attendees:
 There will be a cancellation fee of \$35.
 Cancellations for any event must be received in writing (or email to vpampe@nfaonline.org) by 8/1/2016 to be eligible for a refund.
 NFA membership dues and international mailing fees are not refundable.