

FLUTE NOTES

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016



TFC Calendar

Events

- FEB 10 REHEARSAL with Finalist 1
FEB 17 REHEARSAL
FEB 24 REHEARSAL
MAR 2 REHEARSAL
MAR 9 REHEARSAL
MAR 16 NO REHEARSAL
MAR 20 DRESS REHEARSAL, 1-3 pm in the Children's Chapel (**SUNDAY!**)
MAR 23 CONCERT, 7 PM at Far Horizons Tucson Village RV Resort, 555 N. Pantano Rd. *Call time is 6:15 pm. Dress is TFC purple polo shirts, black pants, black shoes. Please bring a stand and a stand light if you have one.*
MAR 30 REHEARSAL with Finalist 2
APR 6 REHEARSAL
APR 13 REHEARSAL
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. 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.

Got News?

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

President's Letter

What an exciting January we had!! Rehearsals every week with a different conductor each time. A huge "thank you" to Sandy for compiling the music for each week and distributing folders to us. Thanks to everyone who attended for your participation and for completing the assessment forms each Wednesday. And a big thanks to Jerry for compiling the information and typing up all the written comments. The information and comments on your surveys helped the TFC Board choose two the finalists who will conduct us for the next two concerts: Juan Montoya and Miller Asbill.

Our next challenge is to continue attending rehearsals and give full attention and cooperation to each conductor. In addition, we should practice as much as necessary to learn our assigned part for each piece of music. Each finalist will rehearse our group to perform in concert; one on Wednesday, March 23rd at Far Horizons Resort, and the second at our Members' Recital on Sunday, May 8.

We continue to welcome new faces in our group. Please send Sandy a note and let her know if you play something in addition to C flute (sandyschwoebel@aol.com). We always look forward to having additional piccolo, alto flute and bass flute players!

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to making great music together.

— Judy Bolt, President



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Spotlight on: Jutta Elguindi

by Jerry Ervin

When you hear her flawless English tinged with a soft German accent, the first question you might want to ask Jutta (pronounced like “Utah,” she offers helpfully) Elguindi is, “What’s a nice German girl like you doing out here in the middle of the Sonoran Desert?” So I did.

“It’s a long story,” she begins. “I’ve been in Arizona since 1996, but I was in Yuma until almost 2006.” Yuma? OK, the mystery deepens. Change of direction: We’ll do this chronologically.

“I was born in a small northern German town called Rendsburg.” On a map it appears to be about 40 miles from the Danish border. “My parents had come from the former East Prussia; they were transferred after World War II.”

Jutta’s father was a professional musician (low brass, mostly); her mother was a bookkeeper. Strangely, however, her parents didn’t want their children involved in the arts. “I wanted dance lessons . . . the only music education I had was from my high school. And it was a subject; it wasn’t extracurricular.” She played in a little recorder group and sang in a choir.

High school for Jutta was a four-years girls’ school. “My favorite subject was geography, and we had a good biology teacher, and I also liked chemistry.”

Upon finishing high school, Jutta entered a program in medical technology at the University of Kiel. After university graduation she began working in a research lab at the Institute



for Pharmacology in Kiel. Then, through an exchange program, she came to the United States to work at the Medical College of Georgia. She reminisces about her encounters with American English: “We started English in fifth grade. I had a lot of English, but conversational English was not my strength. Luckily [upon reaching America] I was in a lab, so I could get by until I got the hang of things.” Jutta worked in Georgia for about six years, during which time she met and married her husband, an Egyptian physician doing a fellowship in pulmonology. Soon they started a family: “My daughter was born in

Georgia in 1981.”

Then, in 1986, her husband applied for and landed a research job in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. “He wanted to explore his roots,” says Jutta. “It was actually nice; it was a very international place.” And there her son was born.

With a young family, Jutta didn’t try to find lab work while in Saudi Arabia. She recalls, nevertheless, experiencing some difficulties living there a) as a woman, and b) as a foreigner. “We were going to stay for five years, but we ended up only staying for two.”

When the family returned to the US from Saudi Arabia, Jutta’s husband’s jobs took them first to South Carolina, then to Massachusetts. They remained there until 1996.

Now comes the Arizona part: A pulmonologist in Yuma was looking for someone to temporarily take over his practice. Jutta’s husband

applied for, and secured, the position.

Jutta describes the Yuma environment thus: “It has a lot of ‘snowbirds’; they’re all over 65; and many have lung problems. So there was no shortage of business [for a pulmonologist] in Yuma.” As a result, her husband was eventually able to set up his own practice, and Jutta became the office manager. “It was kind of rough: Neither one of us had any business background. Nothing. I got to do insurance and billing and all that sort of thing.”

They managed, but it was not easy. Eventually the couple divorced.

Jutta, who had been out of the medical lab profession for many years, now wanted to get back into a science-related field. It was to be a bit of a struggle. To begin her re-entry, she turned to the local community college (Arizona Western College). Disappointingly, she learned that for even basic science courses—most of which she had taken at her German university—she would not be able to get credit by exam. Why? Because all those courses required labs. “I had been working in labs for ten years,” she says, but no, she would have to take the actual lab courses (which she could probably have taught). With rueful irony, she notes that the only course for which she was allowed to get credit by exam was English. (She did so, passing in the top 5%.) “My recommendation to any woman, especially if you have a degree” she says with 20/20 hindsight, “is never to stay out of work for a long period of time.”

Fortunately the local hospital had a program through Arizona Western to train registered nurses, with the hospital paying all the costs. Jutta didn’t really want to be a nurse, but the opportunity of getting that training paid for, and with a guaranteed job at the end of the pipeline, was too great to ignore. Salvation, of a sort? “I didn’t really have a lot of choice,” she says.

Jutta’s interest in basic science, however, never flagged. While working on her RN certification—which came with an associate degree in Applied Science—she also started work on and completed a BS in Environmental Science (via a combination of courses at the community college and online work through Northern Arizona University).

Now armed with both a BS and her RN certification, Jutta decided it was time to leave Yuma. Tucson was a logical choice: Her daughter had attended the University of Arizona and her son wanted to begin a program here. “So I applied to University Hospitals [now Banner University Medical Center], got a job, and I moved.”

Simultaneously she was accepted into a UA master’s program in environmental science and microbiology. “All things I was very familiar with,” she says. And soon thereafter she was recruited to enter the doctoral program in environmental science. She did so, earning her Ph.D. in 2011.

In Tucson Jutta also met a local Canadian, Douglas H. Hopp, a semi-retired veterinarian, trained in laboratory animal science at Johns Hopkins. Doug is an interesting guy: During the winter he’s in Tucson, playing bassoon in SASO, working on cars, and helping a mineral wholesaler when the annual gem show comes to town. During the summer he goes up to Toronto, where he works as a captain with tugboats and cruise ships on the waterfront and plays in the Band of the Royal Regiment of Canada, a Toronto-based volunteer reserve band dating back to the early 1860s.

(Personal suggestion: Google the Band of the Royal Regiment of Canada: You’ll find some impressive YouTube videos of them—tall, black bearskin headgear, red tunics and all—marching in various parades and ceremonies. Not to diminish the high school and/or college band experience that many of us enjoyed, but there’s something majestic about that low-key, dignified, spit-and-polish British military band tradition.)

Now a pediatric nurse at Banner, Jutta has also found time to work on scientific papers in microbiology and environmental science. (“And some people actually read them,” she adds.) She has published a number of professional articles and is listed as a coauthor in a recent book chapter on the antimicrobial properties of copper. (Short summary: She and her coauthors discovered that most pathogens—including many antibiotic-resistant organisms—die very quickly when they come into contact with the metal. This discovery has application, among other places, in hospitals and agriculture—for

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example, in feed lots.)

In her spare time (one is prompted to wonder, "What spare time?"), Jutta likes to keep up with the professional/scientific literature in her field. And there's flute, of course: Jutta joined TFC after she started taking flute lessons from TFC member Christine Harper. "I'm not a performer; I'm a listener," she says, but adds that the supportive nature of TFC's rehearsals and performances has helped her a lot. Jutta and Doug also enjoy traveling. In particular, they like taking road trips in both North America and Europe, where Jutta still has relatives. And consistent with being an environmentalist, Jutta drives a Prius and has solar panels on her house.

Having moved from Germany to the USA (Georgia), then traveling to Saudi Arabia and back to the USA (North Carolina, Massachusetts, Arizona); from being a medical lab technician to becoming a mother; from working as a business manager in a medical office to becoming a registered nurse; from completing a Ph.D. in environmental science to becoming a published researcher; and finally reaching the unquestioned pinnacle of her life's many achievements to date by taking up the flute and playing with TFC, it's hard to know where Jutta will next set her sights. (We're pretty sure, however, that she'll be successful at whatever it is.) ■

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Non-board Appointments

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Heather McKeag, Historian

Members' Recital Will Differ This Year

This year the Member's Recital will have a different format. Because this is one of the events that will be directed by a finalist for the Music Director position, this will be an ensemble concert. However, there will be one or two slots on both spring concerts during which small ensembles can play. If you are interested in performing on EITHER concert (March or May), please let Sandy know ASAP!

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



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Young Flutists Win Top Honors

The Civic Orchestra of Tucson awarded top honors to two young flutists in their 2016 Young Artists' Competition, which took place on January 30.

Eighth grader Gracie Hufford won first place in the Junior Winds Division. She performed "Minuet from the *L'Arlesienne Suite*" by Georges Bizet from memory, and was accompanied by TFC member Christine Harper at the piano.

High school junior Shirleen Lee won first place in the Senior Winds Division. She performed "Overture from *Suite in A Minor*" by Georg Philippe Telemann from memory, accompanied by Chia-Chun Ko from the UA.

Both young flutists are students of TFC member Sandy Schwoebel.