



Our mission and hope is for the flutists/grantees of FFF to fill orchestras, chamber music groups, jazz combos and other ensembles in the future. We hope some may become concert soloists and some will become music educators.

Our grantees need financial help for what FFF calls the "extras." See what some of our grantees have to say about that!

**Please help FFF keep it up!**





PHOTO: Angie Obin De Los Santos

**Angie Obin De Los Santos** is a student at Berklee School of Music in Boston where she has a 4-year scholarship. Angie is a jazz player, originally from Panama. FFF has helped her travel for jazz performances over the past three years. Two were for performances in Chicago for the Northwestern University's Kellogg Innovation Network and the most recent one for KIN was in Miami, Florida.

Her words: *"I'm beyond extremely grateful for all the help I have been receiving from Friends of Flutes Foundation over the past few years, including 2016. Thanks to the 2016 grant from Friends of Flutes Foundation, I was again able to travel, perform with and meet amazing people with extraordinary talent and awareness of global change. These have been and are great musicians from around the world, and your grants help me keep working and exploring the diversity that music brings into my life...."*

**Giorgio Consolati**, an Italian student with an undergraduate flute degree from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milano, is now a graduate student at The Juilliard School. He was accepted into the National Repertory Orchestra for the past summer and needed funds for travel and the required tux and jacket. FFF helped towards these expenses.

He told us: *"What an incredible summer!! [The NRO] played 18 concerts in 8 weeks, performing many masterpieces of the orchestral repertoire and having a lot of fun in the beautiful Colorado Mountains. I feel really inspired and my flute playing has improved so much, as well as my confidence in the orchestral playing. It was an invaluable experience...."*

PHOTO: Giorgio Consolati performing as a soloist with the NRO playing Mozart's flute and harp concerto.



PHOTO: Maria Vallejo at her masterclass.

**Maria Vallejo** is a Masters student in Flute Performance at the University of Miami after obtaining her BM in Flute Performance from Western Michigan University. FFF helped Maria to attend The Bonita Boyd International Flute Masterclass, a four-day intensive workshop at the Eastman School of Music.

As she told us: *"When I played... (and even just by attending all the masterclasses) for Aaron Goldman and Bonita Boyd I learned many ways of improving my sound and musicality. I also learned new ways of practicing fast passages, how to get a better technique, how to play pianos with a better sound, among other things.... The mock audition was also a great experience. I have never played with a screen before, so it was great to experience this...."*



**Eftihia Arkoudis** is working towards a DMA in Flute Performance on a Graduate Assistantship at West Virginia University, where she also received a Master's Degree. Her prior flute education was in Austria and Greece. She was invited to play as principal flute in the Greek-Turkish Youth Orchestra, which originated in the belief that sharing the universal language of music would bring young musicians closer and be a "bridge to harmony." The orchestra performed in various Greek Islands and in Izmir, Turkey. FFF helped her with expenses to get there.

In her words: *"...if it wasn't for this grant I wouldn't have been able to travel to Europe and perform with the orchestra.... As we all know, musicians need to be able to adjust their playing according to the acoustics of each hall. During this trip one of the most exciting learning parts was the speed in which I had to do so. Every two days we performed in a different space, and most of the times it was an open one [castles]. Therefore, I had to adjust my playing and pitch quickly and efficiently, which kept me constantly alert. Adding to this, the orchestras in Europe don't tune in 440Hz like in the US, so it was very interesting to go back to tuning in 442Hz after a year of not being musically active in Europe...."*

PHOTO: Eftihia Arkoudis with some of the other players in the Greek-Turkish Youth Orchestra.





PHOTO: The Emissary Quartet, which includes Weronika Balewski, Rebecca Chapman, Colleen McElroy and Sarah Shim.

**The Emissary Quartet** was formed by four flute majors at Carnegie Mellon. The Quartet was invited to perform at the National Flute Convention this past summer in California. FFF helped them with travel expenses. An enterprising group, they also are applying to be a 501(c)(3) organization and FFF helped pay for the IRS filing fee.

As they told us: *"Thanks to the Friends of Flutes Foundation, Emissary Quartet was able to apply for tax-exempt non-profit status and attend the National Flute Association annual convention this year. Attending the NFA Convention made it possible for us to share our work and ideas with the flute community at its largest annual event. The personal and professional connections we made at the convention are a crucial part of growing the reputation of our ensemble. The Friends of Flutes Foundation has believed in our vision since our beginnings as a professional ensemble, and we are so grateful for their continued support!"*



PHOTO: Jenny Lehtonen in her solo performance from the summer program.

**Jenny Lehtonen** is seeking an MM in Flute Performance at the University of Cincinnati – Conservatory of Music. She received her BM in Flute Performance at the University of Maryland. FFF helped her to attend the Philadelphia Orchestra's Music House Program this past summer.

As she told us: *"Being at PIMF Music House was an inspiring experience in more ways than one: I was encouraged and challenged as a person as well as a flute player, to take music outside of myself and to think about the impact music has on others. While my long-term goals of performance remain the same, I hope to include significant community engagement into my future profession."*

**Simona Donova** is a student at Queens College, The City University of New York, seeking her MM in Flute Performance. She received her BM in Flute Performance at the University of Central Arkansas. FFF helped her to go to The Miami Music Festival this past summer.

She told us: *"[At the Festival] each one of the participants was given the opportunity to perform a variety of concerts every week including some of the most challenging orchestra repertoire, such as, Mahler Symphony #6, as well as famous operas, such as, 'The Magic Flute' by Mozart. Each piece was rehearsed only a week prior to the performance which gave us a chance to experience fast pace learning just as it is in professional orchestras. It was amazing that there were over a hundred young artists participating at the festival from all over the world, speaking different languages, but after only a week of rehearsals and cooperation, we were able to provide the best experience for our audience and manage to speak the universal language of music."*



PHOTO: Simona Donova



PHOTO: Victor Hernandez

**Victor Hernandez** is seeking his BM in Flute Performance at Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music. FFF helped Victor attend the Jeffrey Khaner Flute Class as part of the Curtis Summerfest 2016.

As he told us: *"The Jeffrey Khaner master class was an amazing opportunity to grow as a musician in a unique environment that only the Curtis Institute of Music can offer. The program was really intense and demanding, but at the same time was so much fun. The faculty was just stunning...."*



PHOTO: Melissa Cheng

**Melissa Cheng** is seeking her BM in Flute Performance at Boston University. FFF helped her attend the Brevard Music Center Summer Institute in North Carolina.

As she told us: *"We also had the unique opportunity to work with many world-renown conductors.... Working with a different conductor almost every week taught me how to quickly adjust to each conductor's style... I also had the responsibility to learn new pieces of music every week as we played two concerts a week, each concert with different repertoire. The fast pace of learning simulated life as a musician in a professional orchestra, giving students a taste of the real world."*



**Stranded Silver**, a Flute Quartet devoted to performing contemporary music, was formed by flute majors at East Carolina University. FFF helped them with travel expenses to the National Flute Association Convention in California where they were invited to perform music written for flute quartet within the past decade.

As they told us: *"Attending the convention as performers was truly an honor; we were able to reconnect with so many colleagues we had not seen in years and made a variety of new connections with an array of other flutists. Our performance was very well received and we felt this was one of our ensemble's best performances to date."*

PHOTO: Stranded Silver with Willie Santiago, Jacqueline Traish, Benjamin Sledge and Elisa Alfonso.

**In Radiance**, a Flute Quintet that focuses on new and commissioned flute music, was formed by flute master students at Longy School of Music in Boston. FFF helped them with travel expenses to the National Flute Convention in California in August where they were invited to perform.

As they told us: *"We had an excellent time at the NFA Convention this year. With the support of the Friends of Flutes Foundation, we were able to perform at the convention, and present as a finalist in the Arts Venture Competition. As a direct result of performing and attending the convention, we were asked to present a workshop and perform at the Boston Flute Festival this October. We could not have gotten this far without your help!"*

PHOTO: In Radiance performing at the NFA, including Stacey Chou, April Cheung, Joanne Wheeler, Maria Gabriela Alvarado and Jennifer Willis.



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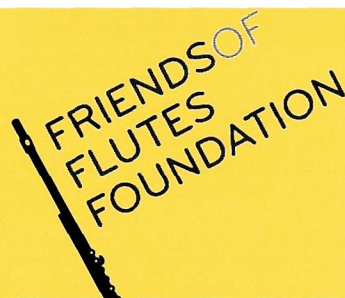
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