

Faculty and Guest Bios

NCFC 2018

FACULTY

James Brinkmann, Interim Faculty, unites his passions for teaching and performing by creating interactive performances to enhance audience's connection with music and their creativity. From playing in concert halls to jamming in the subways, he performs and gives creativity workshops around the country with communities such as the University of Utah, Lakeview Orchestra, Atlanta Flute Club, and Redux Contemporary Art Center, re-energizing audiences' engagement and creativity. A co-founder of Floboe Productions Studio, he and oboist, Alli Gessner, created and continue to perform (wigs and all!) "Concerto for Frenemies: a comedic musical production of W.A. Mozart's C/D Concertos for Flute and/or Oboe." He presented his interactive performance concept at TEDx DePaul University 2018 and will be giving an interactive recital at the National Flute Convention in August 2018. A passionate teacher, James is on faculty at Merit School of Music and maintains an active private studio in Chicago. He played second flute with Northbrook Symphony for five years and has also performed with New World Symphony. He placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively, in the 2012 and 2013 National Flute Association Orchestral Excerpts Competition and placed 3rd in the 2015 and 2017 Donald Peck International Flute Competition. He received his Bachelor of Music summa cum laude at DePaul University. His primary teachers have been Lisa Byrnes, Mary Stolper, and Christina Smith. He will be attending Michigan State University in Fall 2018 to begin his Master's in Music, studying with Richard Sherman.

Dana Burnett is a member of the Chamber Group Camarada and is teacher and a chamber music coach in San Diego. She has been featured with the Eastern Philharmonic, North Carolina, Virginia, and Nashville Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestras. Dana has served on the faculties of UNC-Chapel Hill, the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. For thirteen seasons she was on the faculty of the Eastern Music Festival and was chair of their piano department. She is a first prizewinner of San Diego's Musical Merit and has won numerous other competitions, including the Portland Maine Symphony, the Alabama Symphony, the Mozart Competition in Colorado and the San Diego and La Jolla Symphony Young Artist Competitions. Dana has served as *Artist In Residence* at Southern Illinois University, Harcum College, Oklahoma State University, Central Michigan University and the University of Greensboro. She has recorded for the Naxos and Arabesque labels and her performance of Ravel's Piano Concerto in G has been featured on NPR.

Miles Graber received his musical education at the Juilliard School, where he studied with Anne Hull, Phyllis Kreuter, Hugh Aitken and Louse Behrend. He has lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1971, where he has developed a wide reputation as an accompanist and collaborative pianist for instrumentalists and singers. He has performed with numerous solo artists, including Sarah Chang, Cho-Liang Lin, Camilla Wicks, Mimi Stillman, Judith LeClair, Frederica von Stade, and Martha Aarons. He is a member of the chamber groups MusicAeterna, GGRE Trio, Alcyone Ensemble, the Sor Ensemble, Mira Trio and the new music group Sounds New. Mr. Graber has been associated with such ensembles as the New Century Chamber Orchestra, Midsummer Mozart, the Oakland Symphony, the Berkeley Symphony, the California Symphony, and Opera San Jose. He has accompanied the master classes of Midori, Joseph Silverstein, James Galway, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Yo-Yo Ma, Leon Fleisher, Jeanne Baxtresser and Paula Robison. Mr. Graber has been a frequent performer with members of the San Francisco Symphony, San Jose Symphony, Berkeley Symphony, California Symphony, Santa Rosa Symphony, and many other orchestras. He is a staff accompanist at the San Domenico Conservatory in San Anselmo, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and NCFC.

Karen Johnson is known as a colorful and virtuosic stylist of both solo and chamber music repertoire. She has served as principal flutist of the Washington Bach Consort and is the Co-Principal of the Chesapeake Orchestra. The *Washington Post* has described her playing as "exquisite" and "mesmerizing" and in another recent review the *Post* said "... flutist Karen Johnson wrought unforgettable magic." She has performed throughout the United States and Mexico with the Takacs String Quartet, the Bach Aria Group and popular artist Stevie Wonder. She has also performed with the Bethlehem Bach Festival, the Shelter Island Music Festival and the Glimmerglass Chamber Music Festival. Her recent recital venues include the National Gallery of Art, the Romanian Embassy, the French Embassy and the Icelandic Embassy. She has won numerous competitions and awards, including a solo recitalist grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. She is currently working on a flute and piano CD, **From the Americas**, with pianist Carlos Rodriquez. Ms. Johnson is on the faculties of the St. Mary's College of Maryland, the Levine School of Music, and NCFC. She is also an active participant in the "Bach to School" music outreach program in the District of Columbia. With colleagues Carlos Rodriquez, piano and John Kilkenny, percussion Ms. Johnson has recently formed a new musical ensemble DANCING HEART, a group dedicated to inspired performances that transform audiences.

Tomiko Tsai is a flute teacher and performer in the San Francisco Bay Area. Tomiko received her Master's degree in Flute Performance at USC, where she studied with Gary Woodward, former principal flutist of the Los Angeles Opera. Tomiko received her Bachelor's degrees in Music and Chemistry from the University of Puget Sound where she studied with Karla Flygare, principal flutist of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra and Auburn Symphony. Tomiko is currently a member of the Divisa Ensemble, a classical chamber music quintet comprised of flute, oboe, violin, viola, and cello, which coaches chamber music as the Artist-in-Residence of the El Camino Youth Symphony. Tomiko maintains a large private studio of young students. She previously worked in public and private schools, teaching flute, band, history and music theory. A native of Palo Alto, CA, she began playing the flute at the age of 13, under the tutelage first of Joy Apple and then Karen Van Dyke. Although Tomiko's introduction to flute playing was a relatively late start, flute quickly became her biggest passion and she hopes to pass on her enthusiasm to the next generation of flutists.

Karen Van Dyke made her professional debut at the age of 17 when she performed as a soloist with the Baltimore Symphony. She currently maintains an active and versatile career. As an orchestral flutist, she has performed with the Berkeley and San Jose Symphonies, has served as principal flute at the Anchorage Festival of Music, and currently freelances with the Symphony Silicon Valley and Ballet San Jose orchestras. Ms. Van Dyke is the Director of the Stanford University Flute Ensemble, which she founded in 1996 at the invitation of the legendary flutist Frances Blaisdell. The SFE is a coveted ensemble at Stanford and has been featured in NFA conventions in New York City, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, and performed in the TEDx Stanford conference in 2014. On two occasions she performed Jake Heggie's *Statuesque* with the composer at the piano, and appeared in a duo performance with Jeanne Baxtresser in 2004. Ms. Van Dyke has served as Director of NCFC for the last 23 years. An avid educator, she has maintained a private studio for over 30 years and has taught students who have been admitted to top conservatories and went on to become professional flutists. She has collaborated with several world-renowned flutists to produce master classes in Carmel Valley and at Stanford. Ms. Van Dyke has released one solo CD, *Mouvements Perpetuels: Music for Flute and Guitar*, with guitarist Paul Binkley. She is named in *Who's Who in America*.

Gary Woodward brings to NCFC a wealth of experience, knowledge, and wisdom gleaned from a multifaceted career at the highest level of performance in orchestral, chamber music, commercial recording, and musical theater. Highlights of his over forty year career include twenty-five seasons as the Principal Flutist of the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, and performances as principal with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, → Los Angeles Master Chorale, Orange County Pacific Symphony Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony, American Ballet Theater, Joffrey Ballet, and the Bolshoi and Kirov ballet companies. Mr. Woodward is actively recording for motion pictures and television, having played countless scores written by the top composers at all of the major recording studios. He has also played in orchestras for over a dozen first-class musical theater productions. Mr. Woodward began teaching the flute at age 16 and landed his first University position at age 26 at UC Santa Barbara. He recently left his 31-year tenure at the University of Southern California to devote his time and energy to his students at Azusa Pacific University, Biola University, The Master's, College and Occidental College. Mr. Woodward holds degrees in music from the University of Southern California and Chapman University, where his principal teachers were Roger Stevens and Arthur Hoberman. Edna Comerchero was his beloved teacher through high school in his native Sacramento. He studied extensively in the master classes of world-renowned flutists Julius Baker, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Marcel Moyse and Maxence Larrieu.

GUEST ARTIST

Aaron Goldman, Principal Flute of the National Symphony Orchestra since January 2013, joined the NSO as Assistant Principal Flute in September 2006. Prior to joining the NSO, he was Principal Flute of the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and has performed as guest principal with the Baltimore Symphony.

An active soloist and chamber musician, Mr. Goldman has been featured with the Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Orlando Philharmonic, the Chamber Orchestra of Florida, and has performed at several of the National Flute Association's annual conventions. He has also performed with the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, the National Chamber Players, the 21st Century Consort, the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra, and participates in many educational programs with the NSO, including performances in the Family and

Terrace Theaters. He has given lectures at the Carnegie Institute and the Smithsonian Institution such as “The Magical Flute” and “Math and Music: Closer Than You Think” alongside NSO cellist Yvonne Caruthers.

Mr. Goldman is currently serving on the Board of the National Flute Association and is vice president of the Flute Society of Washington. He is also on the faculty of the University of Maryland.

Mr. Goldman received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY.