



GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY®

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC,
THEATRE, AND DANCE

GVSU Flute Day Featuring Guest Artist Mihoko Watanabe

Sunday, November 9, 2025
12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre and
Sherman van Solkema Recital Hall
Haas Center for Performing Arts
GVSU Allendale Campus

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Schedule of Events

12:30 pm Registration

Lobby of LAT

Stop by the registration table to get checked in and pick up a program. Vendors such as Flute World and Flute Specialists will be available from 12:30-5:30 pm and will have flutes, music, and accessories to shop for.

1:00 pm Flute Choir Reading

LAT

Join us for a low-pressure sight-reading session of wonderful flute choir music.

2:00 pm Flute Masterclass with Guest Artist Dr. Mihoko Watanabe

LAT

Members of the GVSU Flute Studio will perform and Dr. Watanabe will provide feedback – come learn new ideas!

4:00 pm “Drop the Beat” Clinic with GVSU Faculty Dr. James Thompson

LAT

Dr. Thompson will lead a participatory session on playing your scales with your favorite pop music – bring your flutes and learn a new and fun way to practice your scales!

5:00 pm Visit Vendors

Lobby of LAT

Dedicated time to visit your favorite flute vendor's table and shop for instruments, music, and accessories!

5:30 pm Guest Artist Recital: Mihoko Watanabe

SVS Recital Hall

Free recital of wonderful music. Dr. Watanabe will be joined by Dr. Andrew Lenhart, piano, and Dr. James Thompson, flute.

Guest Artist Masterclass

Dr. MIHOKO WATANABE, Flute

Concertino pour Flûte, Op.107

Cécile Chaminade
(1857-1944)

Jillaena Weesies, flute
Mijeong Lee, piano

Rising Oceans

Herman Beeftink
(b. 1953)

Brittlyn Keller, piccolo
Mijeong Lee, piano

Concerto for Flute and Orchestra, Op. 8

Otar Gordeli
(1928-1994)

Julia Meyer, flute
Gabrielle Peck, piano

Concerto for Flute and Chamber Orchestra

Eric Ewazen
(b. 1954)

I. Allegro ma non troppo
IV. Allegro molto

Grace Morrison, flute
Sam Bergman, piano

Masterclass Performer Bios

Brittlyn Keller is a third-year Music Education Major with performance honors. She has been playing the flute since 6th grade, and was involved with several ensembles at Fruitport Community Schools, as well as groups at Grand Valley, and from the start she has enjoyed performing any chance she can get. In her spare time, Brittlyn enjoys painting and long-boarding.

Julia Meyer is a sophomore double major in Biochemistry and Music Performance. She has been playing flute for 11 years and piccolo for about 3 years, and she loves performing with the GVSU Orchestra and Early Music Ensemble! When she isn't playing flute or studying for a chemistry exam, she loves hiking, listening to music, writing calligraphy, and hanging out with her cat and dog.

Grace Morrison is a fourth year Music Performance major. She has been playing flute since 5th grade, and has been involved in the El Paso, Waco, and Grand Rapids Youth Symphony Orchestras. Since coming to Grand Valley, she has performed with various ensembles including the Whirlwind Quintet, Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra, and the amazing New Music Ensemble. When she isn't in the music building, Grace enjoys spending time with friends, getting coffee, making food, and singing loudly in her car.

Jillaena Weesies is a sophomore music performance major at GVSU and 1st year transfer student from Muskegon Community College, where she performed in the Choral, Wind, and Jazz Ensembles. She has been playing flute for 11 years and piccolo for 6 years. Throughout this time she has performed both flute and piccolo in the Holland Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Shoreline Community Orchestra and is currently a part of the West Michigan Concert Winds. She often performs in pit orchestras for schools across West Michigan and is currently a part of the Wind Symphony at GVSU. When Jillaena isn't playing flute you can find her playing the saxophone in various jazz ensembles, hanging out with friends, going for a hike, or enjoying a good cup of tea.

Guest Artist Recital

Dr. MIHOKO WATANABE, Flute with

Dr. Andrew Lenhart, Piano

Dr. James Thompson, Flute

Sonate pour Flûte et Piano

Yuko Uebayashi
(b. 1958)

- I. Lento-Allegro
- II. Presto
- III. Calmato
- IV. Allegro

Fantasia Mexicana for Two Flutes and Piano

Samuel Zyman
(b. 1956)

Performer Bios



Dr. Mihoko Watanabe is an internationally acclaimed flutist, educator, and scholar known for her vibrant artistry, cross-cultural insight, and holistic approach to music-making. She is Professor of Flute and Chair of the Entrepreneurial Music Certificate Program at Ball State University, where she inspires a new generation of artist-citizens to pursue meaningful, creative, and inclusive careers.

A native of Japan, Dr. Watanabe earned her Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance and Music Education from Musashino Academia Musicae in Tokyo. She holds a Master of Music and Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Flute Performance with a specialist certificate in Ethnomusicology from the University of Michigan. Her work blends the discipline of Western classical training with a deep reverence for global traditions, aesthetics, and philosophies.

As a performer, Dr. Watanabe maintains an active career as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral flutist. She currently serves as principal flute of Orchestra Indiana and regularly performs with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Her recital and chamber appearances have taken her across North America, Europe, and Asia, and she has been a featured artist at National Flute Association conventions, College Music Society conferences, and international music festivals. Her expressive sound, imaginative programming, and culturally informed interpretations continue to engage and inspire audiences.

A respected scholar, Dr. Watanabe is the author of the influential article “The Essence of Mei: An exploration of the inspiration behind Mei through interviews with the composer,” which explores the subtle and profound Japanese aesthetic concept of Mei, emphasizing nuance, suggestion, and spacious beauty. The article has been translated into German and Dutch by their respective national flute associations, expanding its reach across Europe and contributing to a broader understanding of intercultural performance practice. Her research often informs her recital programming, particularly in works that center breath, silence, and poetic expression.

In addition to her work at Ball State University, Dr. Watanabe has taught at leading summer festivals, including the Brevard Music Center Summer Festival, and she currently serves on the flute faculty at the Fresno Orchestral and Opera Summer Academy (FOOSA). Her teaching extends beyond technique to address mindfulness, identity, and artistic purpose. She is a certified meditation teacher and the founder of Mindful Musicians, an initiative dedicated to integrating contemplative practices into the life of the musician. Her students are equipped not only with musical excellence but also with tools for resilience, focus, and well-being.

She has previously held faculty positions at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and the University of Windsor. Her contributions to the field have been recognized with honors such as the Ball State University College of Fine Arts Dean’s Creative Endeavor Award.

Whether performing canonical repertoire, premiering contemporary works, or exploring the dialogue between Japanese and Western traditions, Dr. Mihoko Watanabe brings to the stage an artistic voice marked by integrity, depth, and curiosity. Her presence in recital settings offers audiences a unique opportunity to experience music as both a personal expression and a cross-cultural conversation.



Originally hailing from Missouri, **Dr. James Thompson** joined the faculty at Grand Valley State University in Fall 2024 and now resides in Grand Rapids. Dedicated to the expansion of the flute repertoire, James was awarded grant funding to travel to France for his dissertation research on the flute music of Nicolas Bacri. His dissertation was subsequently named a winner of the National Flute Association’s (NFA) Graduate Research Competition.

James gave the American premiere of Bacri’s *Concerto pour flute* in 2017. James has also performed new works for flute by Robert Fruehwald, Roy Magnuson, and Lindsey Wiehl at several NFA conventions, the College Music Society National Conference, and the American Viola Society Festival.

James has been featured as a concerto soloist with the New Chicago Chamber Orchestra, the Southern Illinois Symphony, the Ball State University Symphony Orchestra, and the Illinois State University Symphony Orchestra. During the summers, James has appeared in music festivals such as Domaine Forget (Canada), Festival Suoni d’Abruzzo (Italy), the Fresno Opera & Orchestra Summer Academy, and the Southern Illinois Music Festival.

As an orchestral musician, James currently holds the 3rd Flute & Piccolo chair with Symphony of the Lakes (Indiana) and has performed with regional orchestras across the Midwest. Recognized for his engaging teaching style, James is in demand as an educator. He has given flute masterclasses and clinics at Indiana State University, Valley City State University, Texas Lutheran University, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Southeast Missouri State University, and East Central College.

James's degrees are from Truman State University, Illinois State University, and Ball State University. Prior to joining the faculty at GVSU, he taught at Ball State University, Earlham College, and Taylor University, and served as Education Coordinator for Orchestra Indiana.



Dr. Andrew Lenhart enjoys a wide-ranging career as a collaborative pianist, vocal coach, teacher, music director, and minister of music. He has appeared in concert with distinguished artists such as Areta Zhulla, Stephen Clapp, Susanna Phillips, Paul Appleby, and Michelle Areyzaga. Some of the venues he has performed at are Alice Tully Hall, Severance Hall, and The Music in the Loft Concert Series in Chicago.

Andrew is a Visiting Professor, Vocal Coach and Collaborative Pianist at Grand Valley State University and the Director of Worship at Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Grandville, MI. Previous faculty positions include Wheaton and Nyack Colleges. He was the music director for the Milwaukee Opera Theater's production of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and the vocal coach for the opera scenes program at the MasterWorks Festival. Additionally, he has served as a Minister of Music at a number of churches in New York and Michigan where he has directed choirs, worship bands, and musicals.

He holds a DMA in Collaborative Piano from the Juilliard School, an MM in Accompanying and Chamber Music from the University of Michigan, and a BM in Piano Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music. His teachers include Margo Garrett, Martin Katz, Jonathan Feldman, Anne Epperson, and Olga Radosavljevich.

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GVSU Music Faculty

Corie Auger
Christopher Belland
Rachael Bergan
Colin Bianchi
Mark Buchner
Arthur Campbell
Paul Carlson
Sookkyung Cho
Ryan Christianson
Greg Crowell
Michael Drost
Lisa Feurzeig
Beth Gibbs

Patricia Gordon
Samuel Gould
Adam Graham
Dan Graser
Gary June
Olivia Kieffer
Andrew Lenhart
Pablo Mahave-Veglia
Helen Marlais
Barry Martin
John Martin
Chuck Norris
Victoria Olson
Christopher Petersmark

Danny Phipps
Bill Ryan
Joel Schut
Greg Secor
Kathryn Stieler
Paul Swantek
James Thompson
Kevin Tutt
Marlen Vavříková
Mark Williams
Alex Wilson
Yu Xin
Molly York

Upcoming MTD Events

Nov. 14-23 in KBB Theatre

Nov. 15 @ 1:00 p.m. in SVS

Nov. 16 @ 3:00 p.m. in SVS

Nov. 18 @ 7:30 p.m. in LAT

Nov. 19 @ 6:30 p.m. in LAT Lobby

Nov. 19 @ 7:30 p.m. in LAT

Nov. 20 @ 7:30 p.m. in LAT

Nov. 23 @ 5:00 p.m. in SVS

Nov. 23 @ 2/7:00 p.m. in 1600

Nov. 23 @ 7:30 p.m. in SVS

Nov. 24 @ 7:30 p.m. in LAT

CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION

Guest Artist Recital: Dasol Um, piano

Flute Studio Recital

Jazz Ensembles Concert

Concert Band Concert

Symphony Orchestra Concert

Wind Symphony Concert

Early Music Ensemble

Senior Dance Concert

Saxophone Soloists

Choral Ensemble Concert

For updated information on Music, Theatre, and Dance events, please visit
www.gvsu.edu/mtd.

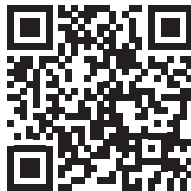
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