

## Member Newsletter

*A newsletter for flute players, other music groups, & business members.*

*Your contributions to the newsletter are always welcome.*

*To contribute content, or to subscribe to our newsletter, please email to [IEVFluteSociety@gmail.com](mailto:IEVFluteSociety@gmail.com)*



### President's Corner

JUSTIN CHALK—PRESIDENT

#### Greetings Members!

Is it really almost Autumn?! This summer has flown by. I hope all of you have had a wonderful summer and year so far!

Don't forget, we have been planning an awesome Master-class coming up on 19 October, 2025. See page 4 and 5 more information

With the Fall approaching, many of us will be returning to school and/or band and/or orchestra. Now would be a good time to have your flutes serviced. The Inland

Empire Valley Flute Society has partnered with several flute dealers/repair specialists over the years. They are all well-versed in flute sales and repair, and would be more than willing to help you keep your babies in tip-top shape.

Our next monthly meeting will be held on 24 August, 2025, at 5PM in person and via Zoom. Please let us know if you can attend, and we'll get you more information. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Justin Chalk,

President / Inland Empire Valley Flute Society

### Our Mission:

*To inspire flutists of all ages and abilities, and to support each other in our endeavors to learn, improve our playing, and enjoy playing the flute.*

### OUR NEXT MEETING :

#### **AUGUST 24 2025**

*If you would like to join online, please contact :*

[Jackie\\_aronowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:Jackie_aronowitz@yahoo.com)  
for the Zoom link.

#### Future meeting:

Sunday, September 28, 2025

#### Masterclass

October 19, 2025

## Get Connected ▪ Contact Us

Email: [ievflutesociety@gmail.com](mailto:ievflutesociety@gmail.com) ▪ Web: [www.IEVFluteSociety.com](http://www.IEVFluteSociety.com)

[facebook.com/IEVFS](https://facebook.com/IEVFS)

**Don't Wait! Get added to our email list to stay informed of the latest upcoming events!**

## Finding and Spreading the Joy in Flute Playing: Playing by Ear/Improvisation

By IEVFS Vice President Diana Irving

When you take flute lessons, it seems (at least it was mostly that way for me) that one is given a lot of classical pieces, varieties of ways to practice scales, warm up, etc. As a young teen, I was enjoying playing most of what was assigned to me, but naturally hearing popular tunes on the radio or from watching TV, movies, etc. more modern and popular tunes would be heard and a desire to learn to play some of them came up. I recall asking my flute teacher what book I should purchase so I could play "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head"; his response was something like: "...you don't need to buy music for that...why don't you figure out the tune and try it in (gave me a couple of keys) and play it at your next lesson...if you can play by ear, you can really expand your musician skills, be able to play about anything...."

I was able to do it, but it was, of course, a lot easier to have the notes and arrangements already written out. I continued playing in school and college bands....then much later, I found myself in a few situations playing in several different churches, singing solos, duets, trios, then later directing choirs. I had fun making a lot of my own arrangements of various church pieces, some of which were descants that could be played as part of the accompaniment for choir pieces. Learning better how to hear, read, and teach voice parts helped me figure out ways to include flute playing....I read or heard somewhere that the flute is the instrument that sounds most like the human voice; that makes sense to me...

After getting more experience choir directing (as a college student and at several other churches in early 80's) then in the late 90's and early 2000's I found myself involved in playing my flute (plus some singing) with some other church "Praise/Worship Teams" (which was what many churches were doing to replace much of the more traditional hymns/choir---the teams featured usually guitars, electric keyboards/piano, drums, and would play more popular modern gospel songs and traditional hymns also with more modern arrangements). Mostly I learned to develop flute parts by referring to the song sheets the team was given which had song lyrics and guitar chords and working out more precise arrangements during the practices.

Around fall 2012, I was invited (and began) to play flute along with church band in Perris, CA through one of my very best friends who understood how much I enjoy playing...the musicians were very friendly and seemed happy to have me participate in all the music they were doing. We would play before service started, during congregational and choir singing, and everything in between with NO printed music (only very rarely would we use sheet music --maybe about 3% of the time LOL). I recognized and could play without too much problem what they were playing....luckily, I was familiar with many of the gospel songs they would often play/perform since I heard/played/sang a lot of them in early 70's when I was in college, etc.

## Finding and Spreading the Joy in Flute Playing: Playing by Ear/Improvisation

By IEVFS Vice President Diana Irving

### Continued from previous page

The music director ("Mike") was always very encouraging and appreciative, sometimes would be surprised that I already knew a lot of the songs they would play, sometimes might be surprised if I was playing in upper register or add other embellishments...it was such a fun team of musicians to work with. During choir practice I would often help choir sections learn their parts by playing along with them during their sectional practice...that also helped me get familiar with chords and patterns of each piece we were practicing so I would make a few handwritten notes to remind me what notes "were working" for my part. Many times, for reasons I usually wasn't aware of, the director would change the key of the song we were playing...somehow, I just told myself to "relax, listen and figure it out as you go". Once I figured out what harmony parts I was playing (during choir/band practices), I could fairly accurately switch to the new key (new to me, anyway).

Every so often, Mike would have me play a solo, usually at the beginning of a song during the introduction...usually not a problem for me...but one time he was telling the band to "be quiet...Diana is going to play a solo at the beginning...you guys come in when the choir comes in". I had absolutely NO recollection of the song or how it went...fortunately Mike was playing organ behind me and told me what key it was in (maybe key of F?) So, I took a big breath and started playing some kind of creative ditty following whatever tempo or chords Mike was playing behind me...I think I did it all with my eyes closed and lasted about 8-12 measures... I must have played something that seemed musical.....people who weren't involved in the music were listening contentedly; then choir started singing at their cue--the floor did not open up and suck me down into the bowels of the earth...

At the end of the service, my good friend came up to me and told me how much she enjoyed the solo I played during the choir piece...asked me what it was. I told her the truth and we both had a great laugh together. It was at that point I realized that the more experience I had gotten playing by ear/improvising, etc. the more comfortable I got with it---that I could claim that I now "specialize in playing songs I don't know"....although it does help if others aren't sure what the song is either. It's just music...and it is SO much fun and I love doing some of the free lance stuff when the opportunities arise. Ever since I made it through that performance, I think I stopped getting nervous playing in public...getting nervous never helped anyway--- and most likely no one will know what my part was supposed to sound like--of course, neither did I--so let's just have fun playing music!

**Concert Corner/ Upcoming Events 2025****Saturday, October 18, 2025--Festivo Ensemble at Art For Heaven's Sake**

Festivo Ensemble! will be performing at the Art for Heaven's Sake Fine Arts Festival at Redlands United Church of Christ, located at 168 Bellevue Ave, in Redlands. They will be playing from 10 a.m. to noon. Festivo Ensemble! original core members left to right are: Carrie Sudweeks, Diana Irving (founder of the group) and Lance Alloway. The group started as a flute trio and has expanded to include other instruments such as oboe, piccolo, alto flute, guitar, clarinet. They've played together since Summer 2021 at various locations in the Inland Empire such as Banning Public Library and San Bernardino County Museum. They love to play a wide variety of music genres.

**Sunday, October 19, 2025--IEVFS Masterclass with Kate Prestia-Schaub**

Announcing the 2025 Bi-Annual IEVFS Masterclass! This event will take place on 19 October, 2025, at the Victoria SDA Church, located at 1860 Mountain View Avenue, Loma Linda, California, 92354, from 9AM to 3PM.

Come one, come all! Calling all Flutists!! We want you!!! IEVFS has sponsored Kate Prestia-Schaub to be our artist in residence for what is to be a fun-filled and fantastic flute and piccolo masterclass! We have 8 spots open for performers in the masterclass, plus additional capacity for those who wish to audit/observe the masterclass. If you are interested in participating as a performer, please contact us at [IEVFluteSociety@gmail.com](mailto:IEVFluteSociety@gmail.com) as soon as possible! We will have a brochure and pricing information available soon. If you need an accompanist, we can provide one or you can provide your own. Please no artificial musical accompaniments.

All attendees (performers as well as auditors/observers) are encouraged to bring their flutes, as you will be able to participate in a group warm-up and a flute choir reading session if you wish to participate. One of our business members will have flutes available for trial and sale during the event as well.

For more information, see the full page flyer on page 5.



INLAND EMPIRE VALLEY  
*Flute Society*

## 2025 MASTERCLASS

Sunday, October 19, 2025

8 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Victoria Seventh Day Adventist Church,  
1860 Mountain View Ave, Loma Linda, CA

### Guest Artist Kate Prestia-Schaub

Powell Performing Artist and Powell Flutes  
Master Teacher. Idyllwild Arts Academy  
Faculty Member. Soloist and Principal Flutist  
with Temecula Valley Symphony.

- Masterclass
- Flute choir reading session
- Vendor displays, including new flutes to try
- Concert performed by Ms. Prestia-Schaub

#### Who Should Attend?

This masterclass is a wonderful opportunity for flutists of all ages and skill levels. Everyone will learn something that can help them take their flute playing to the next level. Vendors will be on site with flutes for you to try.



Inland Empire Valley Flute Society

To register, go to [IEVFluteSociety.com](http://IEVFluteSociety.com)  
or scan the QR Code  
[IEVFluteSociety@gmail.com](mailto:IEVFluteSociety@gmail.com)



The IEVFS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 2003 to inspire local flute players, promote flute performance, and provide opportunities to improve skills.

Email: [ievflutesociety@gmail.com](mailto:ievflutesociety@gmail.com) • Web: [www.IEVFluteSociety.com](http://www.IEVFluteSociety.com) • Facebook.com/IEVFS

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Desert Winds Freedom Band

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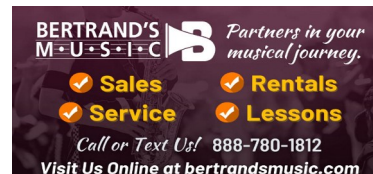
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### Ensemble Members

#### Silver Sounds Flute Ensemble

Directed by Jackie Aronowitz

Email: [Jackie\\_aronowitz@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie_aronowitz@gmail.com)

#### Winds of Praise

Byron West, Music Coordinator

Email: [windsopraise7@gmail.com](mailto:windsopraise7@gmail.com)

#### Festivo Ensemble

Coordinator, Diana Irving

Email: [desertflutevibe54@gmail.com](mailto:desertflutevibe54@gmail.com)

### Teacher Members

#### Jackie Aronowitz, Flute Instructor

[jackie\\_aronowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:jackie_aronowitz@yahoo.com)

#### Victoria Batta

[victoria.cbatta@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.cbatta@gmail.com)

#### Rome Ababat, Performer and Private Instructor

[ababatrome@gmail.com](mailto:ababatrome@gmail.com)

## Advertise Your Business!

Business membership is only \$75 per year. Your logo will be posted in our newsletter AND on our website with a link directly to YOUR website. Email: [ievflutesociety@gmail.com](mailto:ievflutesociety@gmail.com) to sign up!

### **Instruments available For Sale from our Members:**

**Do you have an instrument (Flute or Piccolo) you would like to sell?**

Please send a description, photo, and contact information to Newsletter Editor Rod Terrell : [rodterrell555@gmail.com](mailto:rodterrell555@gmail.com) and it will be posted in the following Newsletter.

### **2025 IEVFS Meeting Dates**

24 August, 2025

28 September, 2025

19 October, 2025, Master Class with Kate Prestia-Schaub

7 December, 2025

### **Advertise Your Business!**

Business membership is only \$75 per year. Your logo will be posted in our newsletter AND on our website with a link directly to YOUR website. Email: [ievflutesociety@gmail.com](mailto:ievflutesociety@gmail.com) to sign up!

## IEVFS Minutes, June 22, 2025

Meeting was via ZOOM and in person. Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:03 p.m.

Members in Attendance via ZOOM: Justin Chalk, Heidi Knight, Aida Rodriguez, Diana Irving, Rod Terrell, Rob Adkisson (Desert Winds Freedom Band)

Members in Attendance in Person: Jackie Aronowitz, Dana Armstrong

Presentation: Jackie Aronowitz gave a presentation on balancing flute playing and practicing with our day-to-day lives. Discussed setting goals, planning a time to practice—even if only 15 minutes, warm ups, etudes, and concert music. Mentioned Etude of the Week FB group, going to master player websites (e.g. Jim Walker) for list of solos.

Minutes: The minutes from the May meeting were reviewed. Diana moved and Aida seconded that minutes be approved. All attending voted in favor.

### Officer's Reports:

Treasurer: Dana reported that there is \$1,883.66 in the IEVFS checking account. We have 18 members, including 5 business memberships. There are 3 pending renewals.

Website: Website updates discussed. Any updates needed, please forward to Dana so she can forward to Smart Access, IT. "Save the Date" for the October 19 masterclass with Kate Prestia-Schaub will be added to website under "Upcoming Events." Dana will be working with Smart Access IT to update Membership page to offer online/credit card renewal option.

Editor: Rod is working on the next newsletter. Any content, please forward to him at the [ievflutesociety@gmail.com](mailto:ievflutesociety@gmail.com) email address. Photos are great, please forward with description.

Historian: No update.

### Business Items:

October 19, 2025 Flute Masterclass with Kate Prestia-Schaub. Jackie gave an update.

Pending items:

- Need letter from IEVFS to Ms. Prestia-Schaub confirming details, including cost. Dana will draft letter for Jackie's signature (as Events Coordinator)
- Need letter or email to Lala's Cuisine re: food truck. Dana to follow up. They need deposit of \$200 also.
- Accompanist and cost, Jackie to follow up.
- Create flier/brochure. Dana will work with Susan Newman. Goal is to have done by end of July.
- Registration—Dana to work with Smart Access to update website to offer online registration.
- Advertise—Once website is updated, advertise event via social media, website, emails, fliers.
- Discussion of how/who to invite to event.

### Open Forum:

Jackie mentioned piccolo event at San Bernardino Valley College with SB Symphony—world record attempt, on July 5. Info about event is posted in IEVFS FB page.

Dana said she still needs to put a draft procedure together for receiving and tracking inventory of donated flutes.

Next Meetings: August 24, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Meetings for remainder of 2025:

Sept. 28; Oct 19—Masterclass; Nov/Dec combined meeting on Dec. 7

2026 Proposed Dates: Jan 25; Feb 22 (membership recital); March 22; April 26; May 24; June 21; Aug 23; Sept 27; Oct 25 (Flute Choir Festival); Nov/Dec combined meeting Dec 6

Meetings usually held the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. No meeting in July, and the November/

December meetings are usually combined.

Meeting adjourned at appx. 5:39 p.m.

Minutes Drafted by Dana Armstrong

8/13/25