

# ARUNDO WINDS

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## INDIVIDUAL BIOS

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### **Gina Vega**, Flute

Gina Vega, originally from Venezuela, is a graduate student of Christina Jennings at The University of Colorado. Mrs. Vega began playing the flute when she was 10 years old with the *Puerto La Cruz Youth Symphony Orchestra*. When she decided to make music her career she moved to Caracas to pursue her Bachelor degree in Flute Performance from the *Instituto Universitario de Estudios Musicales* in Caracas, as a student of Jose Garcia. There she received the “Prize for Academic Excellence” for her outstanding achievement.

In 2003 she moved to the United States to pursue her Master in Arts degree at the University of Iowa with the renowned flutist Robert Dick, receiving a full tuition scholarship. While living in her home country she was principal flutist with the *Jose Antonio Anzoategui* Symphony Orchestra, touring with the ensemble to Colombia and Spain. Also, Mrs Vega was a founding member of the *Venezuelan National Flute Orchestra* and performed with the group in the National Flute Association (NFA) Convention in Chicago in 1997. Other orchestras include the *Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho* Symphony and *Simon Bolivar* Symphony Orchestras in Venezuela, the Mahler Festival Orchestra in Boulder, and the Ottumwa Philharmonic in Iowa. She has appeared as a soloist with several orchestras in Venezuela and Colombia. In 2006 Mrs. Vega was a Guest Artist at the *Second Venezuelan Flute Festival*, where she gave private lessons, master classes and performed.

Among other prizes Mrs. Vega won second prize at the *First Yamaha Flute Competition* in Caracas, was finalist at the *All University Concerto and Aria Competition* at the University of Iowa and was Silver Medalist at the *Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition*. She has participated in Masterclasses with internationally renowned flutists as Michel Debost, William Bennett, and James Galway. Her past professors include Alexa Still, Tadeu Coelho and Luis Julio Toro.

### **Sarah Mellander**, Oboe

Sarah Mellander, oboe/English horn, was born and raised in upstate New York. She received her B.A. in music from Carleton College, where she graduated magna cum laude and with honors in musical performance. Ms. Mellander holds her M.M. in oboe performance from the Eastman School of Music, and is currently pursuing her DMA at the University of Colorado, where she received honorable mention in the 2006 Honors Competition.

Ms. Mellander is the principal oboist of the Fort Collins Symphony and a member of the Boulder Philharmonic and Central City Opera orchestras. In addition, she performs regularly with the Colorado Symphony and Colorado Springs Philharmonic. Her extensive orchestral experience has also included performances with the Binghamton Philharmonic, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, numerous college ensembles, and the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. Ms. Mellander has

been performing with woodwind quintets since she was 13 years old, when she became a member of the Hochstein Memorial Music School's scholarship woodwind quintet in Rochester, NY.

As a soloist, Sarah has performed concerti with the Finger Lakes Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, the Carleton College orchestra, and the CU Boulder Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Mellander's teachers have included Peter Cooper, Richard Killmer, Merilee Klemp, Andreas Lorenz, Laura Griffiths, and Cindy Watson-Sporrel. She also participated in summer festivals at the Brevard Music Center, Round Top, and the National Repertory Orchestra.

### **Jerome Fleg, Clarinet**

Jerome Greyson Fleg has played as a freelance and orchestral clarinetist throughout the United States and Europe. He currently plays clarinet/bass clarinet with the Central City Opera and Wyoming Symphony. Mr. Fleg has toured as the principal clarinet with the Mantovani Orchestra and has played with the Colorado Symphony, Greeley Philharmonic, Ft. Collins Symphony, Gettysburg Symphony, and Columbia Symphony Orchestra. His performances have included many venues such as Carnegie Hall, and he has worked with many musicians such as Grammy award-winning composer Marvin Hamlisch.

Mr. Fleg graduated from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore with Bachelor degrees in clarinet performance and music education. He then completed a Master's degree in clarinet performance at the University of Northern Colorado and is currently a Doctoral student and teaching assistant at the University of Colorado at Boulder. His principal teachers have included: Bil Jackson, Andy Stevens, Mark Nuccio, Steven Barta, Dan Silver and Bill Welty.

Jerome has received awards such as the 1st place in the University of Northern Colorado Orchestra Concerto Competition, Dean's Scholarship from the University of Northern Colorado, and the "Martha and William Bill" Memorial Prize at the Peabody Conservatory. Also an avid conductor, Jerome directs the Colorado Youth Symphony's Philharmonia Wind Ensemble.

### **Kaori Uno, Bassoon**

Kaori Uno is a student of Yoshiyuki Ishikawa at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she is currently pursuing her master of music degree in bassoon performance. Ms. Uno graduated from Aichi Prefecture University of Fine Arts and Music in Japan as one of four outstanding graduating seniors in the class of 2003. Her principal teachers in Japan were Ryohei Nakagawa, Yoshiaki Aotani and Yoshiyuki Nakanishi.

Ms. Uno has performed nationally and internationally. She participated in the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Aspen Music Festival and School. She has been a member of the JBS (Japan Double Reed Society) Double Reed ensemble at the conference of the 2001 International Double Reed Society in Morgan Town, West Virginia. Ms. Uno has also performed with bassoon octet at the 2002, 5<sup>th</sup> Tokyo Double Reed Festival. Among her many prizes is her award as a finalist in the Tsuyama (Japan) International Double Reed Society Competition in 2003, and winner of the Honor Competition at the University of Colorado in 2004. Kaori Uno is currently a recipient of the College of Music Graduate Assistantship.

## **Alexander George, Horn**

Alexander Ritter George began studying the horn when he was 11 years old in his hometown of Pocatello, Idaho. He made his recital debut four years later at the Idaho Music Educators Association's State Solo competition, where he earned first place (1995). During his secondary school years, he was a horn student of Craig Knutson, Principal Horn of the Idaho State Civic Symphony, and William Barnewitz, Associate Principal Horn of the Utah Symphony.

Mr. George entered Philadelphia's prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in 2001, where he was the recipient of the Grace Sherman Fellowship. He studied horn with Jerome Ashby, Associate Principal Horn of the New York Philharmonic, and solfège with Mei-Mei Meng. During this period of conservatory study, he recorded with the NFL Films Orchestra, and spent summers at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and the Scotia Festival of Music.

After earning a Bachelor's degree (2004) from the Curtis Institute, Mr. George accepted a Graduate Assistantship at Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music. Under the tutelage of William Caballero, Principal Horn of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Mr. George has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony, and recently served as Principal Horn with the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge, Colorado. He received a Master's degree from Duquesne University in May of 2006.