Meet the Performers

Celebrated as “one of the finest American woodwind quintets on the scene today” (Tom Benjamin, Composer), and praised for “breathtaking precision” and “lovely long lines” (Catherine McMichael, Composer) and “offering a sound both timeless and vital” (Jeff Scott, Composer, French Hornist and Educator), **Patagonia Winds** has captivated D.C., Maryland and Virginia audiences since 2010. The quintet specializes in thoughtful, high-quality programming that celebrates living, local and historically underrepresented composers. With engaging commentary and educational outreach, Patagonia Winds brings depth, warmth and inclusivity to every performance.

Featured on the Maryland State Arts Council Presenting and Touring Roster, Patagonia Winds has performed at venues such as the Strathmore Mansion, Lyceum, Hillwood Museum, Fairfax Old Town Hall, and the Horowitz Center at Howard Community College. Concert series appearances include Musical Arts International, Takoma Park Arts series, Chalice Concert Series, Concerts at Good Shepherd, Listen Local, Buckingham’s Choice, WMPA Summer Chamber Series, Takoma Porch Festival, and Baltimore Composers Forum, as well as recitals at the National Flute Association Convention in Washington, D.C. and Mid-Atlantic Flute Conventions.

As part of its commitment to promoting chamber music by contemporary composers, Patagonia Winds has commissioned four works: *How to Fly* (2025) by Jasmine Arielle Barnes, *A Walk Through the Garden* (2021) by Andrew John Kosinski, and *Three Nature Walks* (2015) and *Celtic Christmas Suite* (2025) by Alexandra Molnar-Suhajda. Recordings include *Menuets and More*, and Garth Baxter’s *A Jagged Path* and *A Parting Glass* on *Ask of Me What the Birds Sang* (Navona).

Flutist and Patagonia Winds founder **Melissa Lindon** freelances and teaches in the Washington D.C. area. She is principal flutist with Avanti Orchestra, and has performed with the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, Inscape Chamber Orchestra, and Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra. A passionate educator, Melissa serves on the flute faculty at Washington Adventist University, Howard Community College and the Music Institute at HCC, and Northwestern VPA High School. She maintains a private studio with a mission to inspire and nurture a lifelong love of music in flute students of all ages, with an approach informed by her background as a certified yoga teacher that frees students to play with greater ease, expression and focus. She also co-directs Flute-a-rama Summer Flute Camp, which offers a creative, engaging flute and chamber music experience for 6th-12th grade flutists in Takoma Park, MD. A Maryland native, she holds flute performance degrees from Boston University (BMus and MMus) and Southern Methodist University (Artist Certificate).

Stephanie Ying is an oboist and educator in the Baltimore area. She has had the pleasure of performing with orchestras such as the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, and the Fargo Moorhead Symphony Orchestra. She has also appeared with concert bands including the United States Air Force Band and the United States Naval Academy Band. As a soloist she has been seen with the Concordia College Orchestra and the Missouri Valley Chamber Orchestra along with numerous solo recitals. Her passion for chamber music has led her to oboe positions in Patagonia Winds, the Sunderman Wind Quintet, and the National Chamber Winds. In 2024 Stephanie joined the faculty at Gettysburg College as their Adjunct Assistant Professor of Oboe. An active educator in the area, Stephanie maintains a private oboe studio out of her home in Catonsville, MD. Primary teachers include Richard Killmer, Stephanie Carlson, Jennifer Peterson and Tonya Mertz. BMus, Concordia College; MMus, Eastman School of Music.

A dynamic concert artist and educator in the D.C. area, **Dr. Emily Robinson,** clarinet, maintains an active performance schedule, appearing with National Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic Orchestra, Opera On The James, and Avanti Orchestra. As a former member of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, she performed extensively across the D.C. area and the United States in such prestigious venues as The White House, The Kennedy Center, Wolftrap, and Strathmore Music Center. She is currently on teaching faculty in Bethesda, MD at Holton-Arms Academy. Emily studied under Paul Cigan, Burt Hara, John Bruce Yeh, Eli Eban, and Julie DeRoche while completing her studies. BMus, DePaul University; MMus, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities; DMA, University of Maryland – College Park.

For over twenty-five years, **Jay Chadwick** has combined a passion for playing the horn with a full-time legal career. Jay studied the horn at the College of William and Mary with David Wick of the Virginia Symphony. Jay maintains an active orchestral performance schedule in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., having performed for years with the McLean Orchestra and the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. He currently serves as the principal horn in the Avanti Orchestra and the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival. Jay loves exploring the horn's role in chamber music, including brass quintets, woodwind quintets, and string ensembles. As a founding member of the Patagonia Winds, Jay has helped commission multiple original works for woodwind quintet. In between rehearsals and gigs, Jay can be found practicing commercial law in Northern Virginia and checking out used horns on eBay.

Bassoonist **Chris McFarlane** is an active performer in the Washington DC area, appearing with groups such as the National Symphony, the Washington Bach Consort, the Chesapeake Orchestra, and the Alexandria Symphony. He can also be heard on recordings by the Bach Sinfonia, the Smithsonian Chamber Players and the National Cathedral Choir, and has appeared on The Late Show with David Letterman. Mr. McFarlane served as a bassoonist with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in Washington DC for 30 years, including 14 years as Principal Bassoon. He studied with Timothy McGovern of the University of Illinois, William Ludwig of LSU, Bernard Garfield of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and Sidney Rosenberg of IU. BMus, Indiana University in Bloomington; MMus, Louisiana State University.