

Colleen McCracken, Flute

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Colleen McCracken is a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro pursuing a Master of Music in Performance under Dr. Erika Boysen. Originally from Edwardsville, Illinois, she studied with Dr. Shelly Monier, professor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, for ten years.

Recently, Colleen earned honorable mentions in both the Lamont Solo Honors Competition with Ibert's Flute Concerto and the Lamont Chamber Honors Competition with her quintet, ShakaduGAT!

Colleen spent the fall of 2022 in Lyon, France, where she studied the flute with Michel Lavignolle and the French language at l'Université Catholique de Lyon. Upon her return to the USA, she earned an Honorable Mention in the

2023 Lamont Solo Honors Competition, and won first prize in the Central Ohio Flute Association Collegiate Competition. Her success continued at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival where she advanced to the final round of the Jacqueline Avant Concerto Competition, performing Carl Nielsen's Flute Concerto from memory for a public audience.

In 2022, Colleen won 1st prize in the Flute Society of St. Louis (FSSL) Collegiate Young Artist Competition. In 2021, Colleen was selected as a winner of the National Flute Association (NFA) Collegiate Flute Choir Competition, and performed at the annual convention in Chicago.

While in high school, Colleen performed as a soloist with the Edwardsville High School Orchestra and Young People's Symphonic Orchestra at the Community Music School of Webster University. She also had the privilege of playing in the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, St. Louis Youth Wind Ensemble, and the FSSL Flute Choir.

Colleen has attended several summer institutes including Credo Flute, WildAcres Flute Retreat, Rocky Ridge College Intensive, the Texas Summer Flute Symposium, and the Sewanee Summer Music Festival. She has performed in masterclasses instructed by Bonita Boyd, Jill Felber, Walfrid Kujala, Demarre McGill, Amy Porter, and Göran Marcusson.

A recent graduate of the University of Denver - Lamont School of Music, Colleen has performed in the Lamont Wind Ensemble, Lamont Symphony Orchestra, Lamont Opera Orchestra, and the Denver Young Artists Orchestra. In her first year of study at DU, she served as principal flutist in the opera orchestra for Lamont's production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

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More than a performer, Colleen enjoys teaching flute lessons to flutists of all ages! She most recently had the privilege to work with 62 flutists at the UNCG Summer Music Camp.