



2025-2026 CONCERT SERIES

THE WOODBRIDGE FLUTE CHOIR PRESENTS

Earth Wind and Fire!



**Featuring special guests:
Heritage Presbyterian
Choir and
pianist Gary Thomas**



**Saturday, October 18, 2025 3:00 PM
Heritage Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, VA**

Woodbridge Flute Choir Performers

Debbie Gilbert, Artistic Director

Laura Breese, C flute, bass flute

Sheree Budge, contrabass flute

Kathy Cowan, C flute

Karen Edwards, C flute

Jennifer Father, C flute

Diane Hopkins, C flute

Michael Horowitz, bass flute

Jeannine Jorgensen, C flute

MaryBeth Keller, C flute

Sue Kim, C flute

Beth Koehler, C flute, alto flute

Neel Lingam, C flute

Gail Maas, C flute

Julie McDonald, bass flute

Jan McEwen, C flute

Ginger Melby, alto flute

Tara Nadel, C flute and piccolo

Cindy Pedder, alto flute

Joe Pelican, alto flute

Cheryl Price, C flute

Lisa Sheldone, C flute and piccolo

Lori Stewart, C flute

Jim Waterman, alto and bass flute

If you would like to be a patron of the Woodbridge Flute Choir, please make your check payable to *Woodbridge Flute Choir* and mail it to:

P.O. Box 10368, Burke, VA 22009 or use the QR code below



The Woodbridge Flute Choir is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

The Woodbridge Flute Choir is funded in part by



and with the generous support of our donors and patrons.

PROGRAM

Meditation on “Abide With me” Kelly Via

A La Maniere de Pat Vincenzo Sorrentino

Bring Him Home from “Les Misérables” Claude-Michel Schönberg,
Alain Boublil, Jean-Marc Natel, Herbert
Kretzmer

Arranged by Steven Verhaert

For the Beauty of the Earth John Rutter
Arranged by Matt Johnston

Heritage Presbyterian Church Choir
Gary Thomas, pianist

Somewhere Bluebirds Fly Erin Spencer

A Peace of the Acton Gareth McLearnon
Piccolo solo: Tara Nadel

Fire Dance Valerie Coleman
Flute soloist: Sue Kim
Pianist: Gary Thomas

So Many Themes, So Little Time Gareth McLearnon

Flight of the Bumble Bee Rimsky-Korsakov
Arranged by Nancy Nourse

Our special thanks to Rev. Jeri Fields, director of music Katie Sardone,
pianist Gary Thomas, and the staff of Heritage Presbyterian Church

The Woodbridge Flute Choir, directed by Debbie Gilbert and assisted by Lisa Sheldone, was founded in 1996 by Rebecca Jeffreys as an outlet and learning experience for volunteer and adult flutists and has progressed from a modest background music group to a serious performance ensemble.

Since its inception, the WFC has performed a regular concert series in Northern Virginia and has performed at charitable and gala events, Flute Society of Washington events, and flute choir festivals. The choir has also performed at the Kennedy Center and the White House and was invited to perform at the 2011, 2013, and 2015 National Flute Association Conventions.

The group has produced four commercial CD's called Woodbridge Suite, Passages, A Silver Christmas, and our latest CD Butterfly released in 2014. All four of our CD's are available for download through CDBaby.com, iTunes, or amazon.com.

As part of its mission to educate its members and the Washington area flute community the Choir has sponsored master classes and performed with internationally acclaimed flutists such as Per Oien, John Barcellona, Tadeu Coelho, Chris Potter, Alexa Still, Thomas Robertello, Aaron Goldman, Ali Ryerson, Mel Orriss and piccolo soloist Nan Raphael. In recognition of the need for new music written specifically for flute choir, the WFC has commissioned and present world premieres of original works by Gretchen Morse, Nancy Wood, Lee Larsen, Mel Lauf, Jonathan Cohen, Alexandra Molnar-Suhajda, Russell Nadel, Greg Lutz and John Buckley.

Since March 2009 the Choir has held an annual Concerto Scholarship Competition for high school flutists. The WFC awards the winner with a scholarship and the opportunity to perform a concerto with the flute choir. Information about the 2025 competition is available on our website at www.woodbridgeflutechoir.org

***Donations help perpetuate the growth of arts and
the success of the Woodbridge Flute Choir***

Checks can be made out to the address below or use the
QR code below
Woodbridge Flute Choir
P.O. Box 10368
Burke, VA 22009



The Woodbridge Flute Choir is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia office of Consumer Affairs.

WOODBIDGE FLUTE CHOIR RECORDINGS

Butterfly

Released in April 2014, this long awaited fourth album under the direction of Debbie Gilbert, features several works that were commissioned by the Woodbridge Flute Choir. The title piece, *Butterfly*, composed by Russell Nadel, was inspired by the story of a family-friend's experience with a red admiral butterfly. In it, the butterfly is represented by a solo piccolo, performed by Woodbridge member, Tara Nadel. Composer Greg Lutz wrote three of the works featured on the CD - *Afternoon with the Kiddo*, *Traffic Jam*, and *A Couple of Scenes from New Orleans*. Alexandra Molnar-Suhajda's composition, *Solemnities*, was commissioned by the group to celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2006. Also included are Kathleen Mayne's *Balcony* and Valerie Coleman's *Pontchartrain*.

A Silver Christmas

Released in December 2004, our third commercial recording is the perfect CD for the holidays. This spirited recording features traditional favorites such as *Joy to the World*, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, and *Jingle Bells*, along with beautiful arrangements of *Greensleeves*, *Snowdrops*, and *Silent Night* featuring harp and piano.

Passages

Released on August 1, 2002, our second commercial recording features new works commissioned by the Woodbridge Flute Choir, including Gretchen Morse's *Furry Leaves* and *Hear My Voice*, and local composer Melvin Lauf, Jr.'s popular *Southern Peace*. Hear other spirited works such as Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*, Catherine McMichael's *Academie of Dance*, and Nancy Wood's *Pedazitos*.

Woodbridge Suite

Released in 2000, our first CD features local composers Alexandra Molnar-Suhajda (*Greek Tableaux*) and Melvin Lauf Jr. (*Secluded Stream*), along with our first commissioned work *Woodbridge Suite* by Gretchen Morse. Brahms' *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place*, Kabalevsky's *Comedian Gallop*, and Burnette's *Stained Glass Images* round out the disc's program.

CD's are available for purchase after today's concert.

CD's and digital downloads are available from CDBaby, iTunes, and Amazon



Debbie Gilbert, artistic director, holds a B.M.E. from Louisiana State University and has taught private flute lessons to youth and adults for over 30 years. She is currently the principal flutist with the Piedmont Symphony Orchestra and she directs the adult handbell choir at Greenwich Presbyterian Church.

She is also a fifteen-time winner in the National Flute Association (NFA) annual professional Flute Choir Competition and directed the 2015 NFA High School Flute Choir. She is a past president of the Flute Society of Washington (FSW) and coordinator and co-teacher of the FSW Adult Flute Camp. She directed the FSW 2020 Mid-Atlantic High School Flute Choir.

For many years she directed flute choirs at the public high schools in Fauquier County and from 1991-1999 she was the founder and director of the Fauquier Flute Ensemble (an all adult group). From 1996-2004 she served as the music director at Manassas St. Thomas United Methodist Church. Debbie has studied flute with Max Schoenfeld, Jeanne Timm, Thomas Perazzoli, Tadeu Coelho and Toshiko Kohno.

Lisa Sheldone, assistant director, was principal flutist with the Beach Cities (CA) Symphony (1997/98 season) and served as assistant principal flutist in the Topanga Symphony for ten seasons. She has also performed with the West Valley Symphony, Simi Valley Orchestra, Israel Pops Orchestra, Hour of Power Orchestra, Agoura Hills Community Concert Band, the Mike Stanley Wind Ensemble, and in the pit orchestra for the Coneja Players and Cabrillo Music Theatre. Among her favorite musical experiences, however, was as a member of the flute ensemble Flauto Badinage, an expandable flute chamber group that performed as a trio, quartet, and quintet throughout Southern California.





Debbie Gilbert, Artistic Director
Lisa Sheldone, Assistant Director

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Debbie Gilbert
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About the Flutes

A flute is a musical instrument that is shaped like a thin pipe and is played by blowing across a hole near one end of the pipe. The flute is one of the oldest man-made musical instruments. In 1998, archaeologists in Slovenia found a two holed flute made of bone and estimated its age at 50,000 years old. Our modern flutes have many keys and are now made of silver, gold, platinum, wood, and even plastic.

Piccolo



The piccolo is half the size of the concert flute and is pitched one octave higher. The sound of this little instrument can soar above a 75 piece concert band. You are probably most familiar with the sound of the piccolo from Sousa's famous march, "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

Concert Flute



The concert or C flute is the instrument that most students will start with in band. It is pitched in C and its range is over three octaves, starting from middle C.

Alto Flute



The alto flute has a wider and longer tube than the standard C flute so it sounds lower. It is pitched in the key of G. The lowest note of its range is the G below middle C. The alto flute sound is described as mellow and the alto flute is now a standard in jazz.

Bass Flute



The bass flute evolved during the 1930's and 40's with the rise in Hollywood music. It is pitched one octave lower than the concert flute. The tube is twice as long as the concert flute so it has a curve in the tube to bring the tone hole closer to the player.

Contrabass Flute

The contrabass flute is a newer addition to the flute family. It is pitched two octaves lower than the concert flute. Its tube is so long that the flute has two curves and the flutist plays the instrument while standing.



Special Thanks

Our special thanks to Rev. Jeri Fields, director of music Katie Sardone,
pianist Gary Thomas, and the staff of Heritage Presbyterian Church
The Woodbridge Flute Choir Board of Directors
and staff for their time and talents

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Upcoming Events

Woodbridge Flute Choir 2025-2026 Concert Season

Holiday Concert and Benefit for Farthest Corners

Sunday, December 7, 2025 3:00PM

Greenwich Presbyterian Church

15400 Greenwich Church Way, Nokesville, VA 20181

Concerto Scholarship Concert

Sunday, March 15, 2026 3:00PM

Adat Reyim Congregation

6500 Westbury Oaks Ct., Springfield, VA 22152

Spring Concert

Sunday, May 17, 2026 3:00PM

The Mather

7929 Westpark Dr., Tysons, VA 22102

For more information, visit our website at
www.woodbridgeflutechoir.org or use the QR code below

