



AN INTRODUCTION TO
THE CLASSICAL FLUTE

WESTERN CONCERT
FLUTE AND NORTH
INDIAN BANSURI

The Donnelly Music Studio

May 1, 2025

7:30 – 8:30 pm (EST)



Guest Artists

Elaine Newhall, Western Concert Flute

Jeff Whittier, Bansuri Flute

Elaine Newhall performs as principal flute with the Columbia Orchestra where she also serves as a member of the Board of Directors and is also a member of the Greater Columbia Music Teachers Association. She has maintained a private studio in Howard County since 1980. She earned her B.S. in Music Education from College of St. Rose, Albany, NY, and M.M. in Music Education from SUNY Potsdam, NY, Crane School of Music. Mrs. Newhall studied flute with Eleanor Barnes in Schenectady NY. Elaine was honored with the Howard County Arts Council Howie Award for Outstanding Artist 2001.

Elaine Newhall



Jeff Whittier



JEFF WHITTIER began his formal study of North Indian classical flute in 1971 at the Ali Akbar College of Music in San Rafael, California with G.S. Sachdev. He is an exponent of the Indian classical tradition called “Gayaki Ang” or the style of playing based on Hindustani vocal music. His music is noted for its purity of rag and tal, the exposition of the ancient principles of melody and rhythm which are the basis of all classical improvisations. He frequently performs at venues such as Hindu ashrams and temples in addition to the concert stage, and often plays light classical music for Hindu and Muslim weddings. He was formerly the bansuri instructor at Shruthi Swara Laya, a school of Indian music in Fremont, California.

His music was used in the soundtrack of "The Asian Indians in America," a documentary on Indian culture in the U. S. produced by the PBS station WLIW. As well as being a performer and teacher of the bansuri, or bamboo flute, he is also a master craftsman of the instrument. In a 50-year career of flute-making he has provided flutes to some of the most famous musicians of India, including Pt. Vijay Raghav Rao, G. S. Sachdev and Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia, leading flautists of Hindustani music today. His flutes are also used in orchestras of the Broadway shows “Tarzan,” “The Flower Drum Song,” “Miss Saigon,” “The King and I,” “Bombay Dreams,” “The Book of Mormon,” “Amazing Grace,” “Allegiance,” “When You Wish,” and “Aida.” For the Broadway production of “The Lion King,” Disney gave Jeff Whittier a credit for his flutes in the playbill.



WESTERN
CONCERT FLUTE –
CU FLUTE
ENSEMBLE –
TCHAIKOVSKY'S
“DANCE OF THE
CYGNETS” FROM
SWAN LAKE



WESTERN
CONCERT
FLUTE –
BEATBOXING
BY
GREG PATILLO





RAGA
JANASAMMOHINI
~ TAAL RUPAK



Jeff Whittier, Bansuri

Ajay Sundar Raj, Tabla