WindSync Individual Biographies:

**Garrett Hudson, flute**

Recognized by the Winnipeg Free Press for “shaking up the classical music world”, Garrett Hudson is known for his charismatic stage presence and highly personal voice on the flute. His roots lie in Winnipeg, Manitoba where he emerged at the age of 16 in a solo debut with the Winnipeg Symphony. Before embarking upon a dynamic career as an international soloist, instructor, orchestral and chamber musician, Mr. Hudson held positions in North America's leading professional training orchestras including the National Academy Orchestra of Canada and l’Orchestre de la Francophonie in Montreal, Quebec and participated in other world-class training programs such as the Young Artists Program through Ottawa's National Arts Center. Mr. Hudson completed a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of British Columbia, studying under Scottish flutist Lorna McGhee and earned his Masters of Music degree from Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music under the tutelage of renowned flute pedagogue Leone Buyse. Since 2009 he has served as flutist with WindSync, an ensemble considered to be one of North America’s foremost emerging chamber forces and a recent Gold Medalist in the National Fischoff Chamber Music Competition and winner of the Concert Artists Guild international competition for artist management. Mr. Hudson currently serves as adjunct faculty of flute at Lonestar College in Houston, Texas.

**150 WORD EDIT - Garrett Hudson, flute**

Garrett Hudson is a founding member of WindSync. The Canadian flutist’s roots lie in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he made his solo debut with the Winnipeg Symphony at the age of 16. During his training, Garrett performed with the National Academy Orchestra of Canada and l’Orchestre de la Francophonie in Montreal, Quebec. He earned degrees from the University of British Columbia, under Scottish flutist Lorna McGhee, and Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, where he studied with renowned flute pedagogue Leone Buyse. A sensitive communicator both on stage and off, Garrett has coached woodwind students at the Eastman School of Music, Northwestern University, the University of Iowa, and the University of Texas. He lives in Houston, Texas, where he maintains a teaching studio at the beginner through professional levels. Garrett is often found behind the wheel of the minivan while WindSync is on tour and is a coffee and wine enthusiast.

**Emily Tsai, oboe**

Quoted by DMV Classical as having “a consistently lovely tone and [taking] her melodic twists and turns with stylish assurance,” Emily Tsai began her musical studies at the age of four on the violin and started the oboe when she was ten. Based in the Washington, DC area, she is the Assistant Principal Oboe of the Washington National Opera and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. Along with her position at the Kennedy Center, Emily has also performed with the National Philharmonic, Maryland Lyric Opera, Allentown Symphony Orchestra, Alexandria Symphony and others in the DC area. She has made solo appearances with the Alba Music Festival Orchestra, the Amadeus Orchestra, the Paragon Philharmonia, and the Washington Asian Philharmonic among others. Emily is the adjunct oboe professor at St. Mary's College, MD and holds a robust private studio in the DC area. Her main teachers include Mark Hill, Richard Killmer, and Malcolm Smith. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in Oboe Performance from the Eastman School of Music with a Performer’s Certificate and the Chamber Music Award, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Rochester graduating Magna Cum Laude. She received her Master of Music from the University of Maryland where she was part of the Graduate Fellowship Quintet. In her downtime, Emily has completed a number of half marathons, a full marathon, an Olympic triathlon, and a Tough Mudder, and loves to do various outdoor adventures with her husband, Karl. Inside, she can be found playing video games, and spoiling her two adorable cats, Xenia and Perch.

**150 WORD EDIT - Emily Tsai, oboe**

A lifelong musician, Emily Tsai began her musical studies at age four on the violin and added the oboe at age ten. Based in Washington, DC, she performs with a broad range of groups including the National Philharmonic, Amadeus Orchestra, and Maryland Lyric Opera. She is principal oboist of the Garden State Philharmonic and Adjunct Professor of Oboe at St. Mary’s College (MD). Emily has been an artist in residence at the Alba Music Festival in Alba, Italy and a teaching artist at the PRIZM Festival in Memphis, Tennessee, which connects and promotes musicians of diverse backgrounds. Emily holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and University of Maryland, and her primary teachers include Mark Hill, Richard Killmer, and Malcolm Smith. She also earned a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Rochester. Emily loves spoiling her cats, watching video games, and spending time outdoors.

**Graeme Steele Johnson, clarinet**

Praised for his “elegant and rounded sound” and “gentle lyricism” (Albany Times-Union), Graeme Steele Johnson is an artist of uncommon imagination and versatility. Winner of the Hellam Young Artists’ Competition and the Yamaha Young Performing Artists Competition, he has established a multifaceted career as a clarinetist, writer, and arranger. His diverse artistic endeavors range from a TEDx talk comparing Mozart and *Seinfeld*, to his reconstruction of a forgotten 125-year-old work by Charles Martin Loeffler, to his performances of Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto on a rare elongated clarinet that he commissioned. He has appeared in recital at The Kennedy Center and Chicago’s Dame Myra Hess series, and as a chamber musician at Carnegie Hall, the Ravinia Festival, Chamber Music Northwest, Phoenix Chamber Music Festival and Yellow Barn. His concerto appearances include the Vienna International Orchestra, Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Caroga Lake and Vermont Mozart Festival Orchestras and the CME Chamber Orchestra.

Johnson has performed his original chamber arrangements around the country with such artists as Valerie Coleman, the Miró Quartet, and Han Lash. He holds graduate degrees from the Yale School of Music, where he was twice awarded the Alumni Association Prize; other recent accolades include the Saint Botolph Club Foundation’s Emerging Artist Award and the inaugural Lee Memorial Scholarship from the Center for Musical Excellence. His major teachers include David Shifrin, Nathan Williams, and Ricardo Morales, and he is now a doctoral candidate at the CUNY Graduate Center under the mentorship of Charles Neidich.

**150 WORD EDIT - Graeme Steele Johnson, clarinet**

Graeme Steele Johnson

**Kara LaMoure, bassoon**

Kara approaches her work as a bassoonist from many angles--as a performer, educator, creative, and chamber music specialist. Kara has recently performed on the roster of Houston-based new music ensemble Loop 38, the Missouri Quintet, and Chamber Project St. Louis. She is a founding member of the Breaking Winds Bassoon Quartet, a comedic crossover group known for their web presence and their connection with young musicians. With the Breaking Winds, she has been a featured artist at the Beijing International Bassoon Festival, the International Double Reed Society conference, and with community bands across the United States. Kara also takes interest in global youth orchestra movements and has served as a coach for the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra (Switzerland), YOA Honduras, Esperanza Azteca (Mexico), and Bahia Orchestra Project (Brazil). As an orchestral musician, she previously performed with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and she can be heard on the original soundtrack to *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. She is a prolific arranger, and a selection of her arrangements and transcriptions for bassoon quartet are published by TrevCo Music Publishing. Between performances, she can probably be found working on new creative projects or listening to podcasts. Kara’s primary instructors were John Hunt at the Eastman School of Music and Christopher Millard at Northwestern University.

**150 WORD EDIT - Kara LaMoure, bassoon**

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Kara LaMoure is a founding member of the Breaking Winds Bassoon Quartet, a comedic crossover group known for its web presence and connection with young musicians that has appeared at Beijing International Bassoon Festival, at the International Double Reed Society conference, and with community bands across the United States. Kara previously performed with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and she can be heard on the original soundtrack to *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. A teaching artist, Kara has coached youth orchestras in Switzerland, Honduras, Mexico, and Brazil. She holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with John Hunt, and Northwestern University, where she studied with Christopher Millard. Between performances, Kara likes to explore her Houston neighborhood on foot, and she keeps busy adding to her prolific portfolio of arrangements for chamber winds.

**Anni Hochhalter, horn**

Born in California and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, Anni is an active musician and innovator in the arts field. Specializing in chamber music, she has launched an exciting career as a recitalist, instructor, and social entrepreneur. Anni graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Music degree in French horn performance studying with leading studio and orchestral musicians, Rick Todd, James Thatcher and Kristy Morrell along with summers under Roger Kaza as a fellow at the Chautauqua Music Festival and Texas Music Festival. In 2009, Anni won first prize in the Yen Liang Young Artist Competition and performed Richard Strauss’ First Horn Concerto in E-flat Major with the Diablo Symphony. As a touring musician, she has performed with orchestras and chamber ensembles across North America, Europe and Asia and performs each summer as principal horn of the McCall Music Festival in McCall, ID. Anni is based in San Francisco, CA and enjoys trail running and backpacking whenever possible. During the summer of 2020 she backpacked over 250 miles including a 75 mile section of the PCT in Washington and in the last year has run two marathons. Anni currently serves as Executive Director and musician chair of WindSync.

**150 WORD EDIT - Anni Hochhalter, horn**

Born in California and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, Anni became interested in chamber music and innovation in the arts after touring with ensembles across North America, Europe and Asia. Anni is principal horn of the McCall Music Festival in McCall, Idaho, and she performs on vocals, electronics, and horn with the band Late Aster. She studied horn at the University of Southern California with leading studio and orchestral musicians Rick Todd, James Thatcher and Kristy Morrell, with additional summer training at Chautauqua Music Festival and Texas Music Festival. Anni is a former winner of the Yen Liang Young Artist Competition, performing Richard Strauss’ Horn Concerto No. 1 with the Diablo Symphony. She is a graduate of Stanford University’s Executive Program in Social Entrepreneurship, and she is currently executive director and musician chair of WindSync. Based in San Francisco, California, Anni enjoys trail running and backpacking in her spare time.