

Wind Jammers Quintet

The members of Wind Jammers met while performing with various ensembles throughout the Okanagan. The chance to play in a classic wind quintet was an irresistible opportunity, and it didn't take long for the members to bond as a lively, cohesive group. Throughout the pandemic they rehearsed outdoors, often in public parks, where they attracted much interest. The quintet has performed at numerous events including BC Chorfest, Mackie House Tea, Kelowna Art Gallery Reception, Central Okanagan Heritage Society's Concert Series, Vernon Museum Concert Series, Lake Country ArtWalk, and Vernon Proms. Wind Jammers has an extensive repertoire ranging from light-hearted favourites to more substantial and demanding classics.

Janet Watson, Flute

After graduating from the University of Toronto with a degree in musicology, Janet joined the CBC as a radio music producer. Upon moving to the West Coast, she worked as a Suzuki piano teacher and over the next 13 years taught young children in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Edmonton. Janet discovered the benefits of Pilates after moving to Kelowna and now, as a certified instructor, teaches clients how to keep their bodies healthy. Playing the flute with Wind Jammers and in the Kelowna City Concert Band is Janet's way of maintaining her sanity in a very busy schedule.



Karen Gibbons, Oboe



Karen started playing oboe at age 12, studying with Warren Stannard of the Vancouver Symphony. She completed a music education degree at UBC before moving to the Okanagan. On arrival, she began her teaching career and also played the first of her twenty seasons with the Okanagan Symphony. She enjoys playing in musicals, with choirs, and in numerous chamber ensembles as well as the Kelowna City Concert Band. Karen has also played saxophone in the Lake Country Big Band and Front Line Sax Quartet. She is the founder of the recorder consort, Toot Suite.

Lucy Benwell, Clarinet

Lucy began studying the clarinet in England at the age of 11. Saxophone and flute followed, broadening her musical repertoire to include solo, orchestral, chamber, jazz, big band, corporate functions and many musical theatre productions, both live and in the recording studio. Since arriving in BC, Lucy has worked with the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra, Okanagan Symphony Wind Ensemble, BC Interior Jazz Festival, Dreamland Band, Crossfire Big Band, Robert Fine, Kelowna City Concert Band and she is a founding member of the Ampeli Saxophone Quartet. Lucy serves as Executive Director of and teaches at the Kelowna Community Music School.



Edmund House, French Horn



Edmund followed in the footsteps of his parents, who were accomplished musicians. His first orchestral position with the Winnipeg Symphony led him to meet his future wife, Shari, who was in the viola section. This promising situation was interrupted when Edmund was drafted by the US Army to serve with the Fort Wainwright Army Band in Fairbanks, Alaska. Thereafter, Edmund earned a Master's degree at the University of Washington, and was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study horn in Munich. Edmund recently completed a 50-year career playing in orchestras in the U.S., Germany, Brazil, Mexico, and Canada, including 30 seasons with the Okanagan and Kamloops Symphony Orchestras.

Cuyler Page, Bassoon

Cuyler grew up in Ithaca, New York and attended Cornell University, an environment filled with exquisite music of all sorts. Beginning on clarinet in Grade 4 and playing with a woodwind quintet in high school, he moved on to bassoon at the UBC School of Music in the 1960s. There he discovered the joys of Early Music and chamber music, and in 1969 was founding secretary of the Vancouver Society for Early Music. For decades in the Okanagan, Cuyler has played in the Okanagan Symphony, Kamloops Symphony, and numerous chamber groups. His special love is sharing music through playing in ensembles.

