

## Erin Helgeson Torres, DMA

Instructor of Flute, Ohio Northern University/Muskingum University

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### Biography

Dr. Erin Helgeson Torres is the Artist/Instructor of Flute at Ohio Northern University where she teaches applied flute lessons, a flute repertoire/literature course, woodwind methods and a music technology course, in addition to coaching small ensembles and flute choir. Erin also teaches flute at Muskingum University and has taught core music courses (Popular Music, World Music and Music History) at Ohio Dominican University. For six years, Erin served as the Assistant Dean of Students at the Brevard Music Center Summer Festival and Institute. She is Second Flutist/Piccoloist with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and the Principal Flutist of the McConnell Arts Center Chamber Orchestra as well as an Auxiliary Flutist with the Louisville Orchestra and Solo Flutist with the Columbus Ohio Discovery Ensemble (CODE), a contemporary music ensemble that is dedicated to the promotion, performance, and perception of new music in Central Ohio. She performs regularly in various area orchestras including the West Virginia, Central Ohio, Springfield, Westerville and Lima Symphonies and is an Associate Musician with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, she performs in the flute/saxophone duet, *Tower Duo*, with her husband, Dr. Michael Torres. Before her move to Ohio, Erin performed with the Orlando Orchestra and the Sands Theater Pit Orchestra. Erin graduated with a Doctorate of Musical Arts and a Masters of Music from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio studying with Professor Katherine Borst Jones. She received her Bachelor of Music Performance at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida studying with Dr. Jean West. She recently completed her Artist Diploma at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music under Dr. Bradley Garner.

Active as a soloist, Erin recently performed as Guest Solo Flutist on Joel Puckett's *Shadow of Sirius* with the Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds and on Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with the McConnell Arts Center Chamber Orchestra. Additionally, she presented Boulez's masterpiece, *Le Marteau sans Maître* on the Johnstone Fund for New Music Series. Other solo performances have included appearances with the West Georgia University band program, the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music Wind Orchestra, the Ohio State University Symphony Orchestra and the Percussion Ensemble as well as performing solo recitals as the first place winner of the 2009 Women in Music Columbus Solo Competition and the 2006 Sigma Alpha Iota Volusia Alumnae Young Artist Competition and for four years as the Merridy B. Williams Flute Scholarship Recipient from 2004-2007. She also toured as the solo flutist with the Stetson University Orchestra throughout the United Kingdom.

Erin has competed in several national competitions. Most recently, she was a finalist in the 2014 Byron Hester Young Artist Competition and the Mid-Atlantic Flute Festival Young Artist Competition. She was named the first place winner of the 2014 Kentucky Newly Commissioned Music Competition and of the 2013 Upper Midwest Flute

Association Young Artist Competition in St. Paul, MN in April and won second place in the final round of the 2013 National Flute Association's Orchestral Excerpt Competition in August 2013. She is the first-place winner of the 2010 Central Ohio Flute Association's Young Artist Division, the 2010 Ohio State University Concerto Competition, the 2009 Women in Music Columbus, the 2007 Volusia County Alumnae Chapter (Sigma Alpha Iota) Young Artist Competition and a winner of the National Flute Association's 2011 Masterclass Competition. She won second place in the 2012 Flute Society of Kentucky's Young Artist Competition and the 2006 Volusia County Alumnae Chapter (Sigma Alpha Iota) Young Artist Competition. Erin has also been a finalist in the 2012 Mid-Atlantic Flute Festival's Young Artist Competition, and the Flute Society of Kentucky's 2011 Orchestral Excerpt Competition and a semi-finalist in the 2013 William C. Byrd International Young Artist Competition.

Prior to her appointments at Ohio Northern and Ohio Dominican Universities, Erin was a flute and recorder teacher at the Lebanon Music Academy. Erin served as the Graduate Teaching Associate for The Ohio State University's Flute Studio for three years and as a flute instructor at The Jefferson Academy. She developed a teaching philosophy and curriculum for college level students as well as continuing to further build her private teaching studio. Additionally, Erin has teaching experience as a Clinician and Private Flute Teacher at the 2009 Ohio State Flute Festival, a Flute Clinician at various Florida Middle / High School Band Camps (Summers 2003-2007), a Masterclass Instructor at the Stetson Honors Band Festival (2004-2007), and as a Guest Judge at both the 2007 Florida All-State Auditions and the 2006 and 2007 Volusia All-County Band Auditions. Erin also served as an undergraduate Teaching Assistant at Stetson University for both the 2006-2007 Music as a Profession Course and an Honors 101 Colloquium entitled, "Foundations of Knowledge." Most recently, she served as the Adjudicated Events Music Selection Committee Revision Chair for the Ohio Music Education Association by evaluating, adding to and revising the OMEA Solo and Ensemble Flute Trios, Quartets and Choir Listings. She has judged National Flute Association, Kentucky Flute Society and Oklahoma Flute Society Competitions and is the Competition Coordinator for the Central Ohio Flute Association.

Erin is especially drawn to an international concept of teaching and performing. As an undergraduate, she received a SURE Grant to study pedagogy in France and the UK. This experience opened her mind to different styles of pedagogy. She presented this research at the 2007 Florida Flute Festival and an article derived from this experience is currently in press. In 2008, Erin went to Austria and performed with the American-Austrian Mozart Academy Orchestra in the Salzburg Festival. She also completed a two-week tour through China with the New Sousa Band under Keith Brion in December 2010. As a result, her DMA Document is entitled, "Flute Articulation Pedagogy: The Effect of Language-Specific Consonant Pronunciation on a Flutist's Articulation within the French and English Languages." This research was conducted in Dijon, France in March, 2012 and was funded by the 2011 Sigma Alpha Iota National Career Grant. Subsequently, Erin was awarded the 2013 Peter A. Costanza Award for Outstanding DMA Document.

Erin is an active chamber musician as a member of the *Tower Duo* with her husband, Michael Rene Torres. This flute and saxophone ensemble is dedicated to sharing the importance of the arts through chamber music with communities throughout the United States. The ensemble also has a special interest in performing and premiering contemporary works to expand the repertoire of this unique instrumentation. The ensemble was debuted in the summer of 2010 at the Brevard Music Center Festival and Institute and recent engagements have included performances at the 35th International US Navy Band Saxophone Symposium at George Mason University, the Columbus Museum of Art, the 2011 Wright State University Saxophone Festival, the Southern Theater in Columbus, OH, the Brevard Music Center Festival and Institute, the Ohio State University and Muskingum University. *Tower Duo* has an active performance schedule for 2014.

As the President of the OSU Graduate Music Student Association for 2010-2012, Erin organized a chamber music seminar entitled, "Chamber Music: An Interdisciplinary Crossroads." This seminar included a graduate paper presentation session, an open music rehearsal and masterclass with the COSMOS Trio, a keynote address by the musicologist Dr. Marie Sumner-Lott, a composition masterclass with Dr. Marilyn Shrude and a panel discussion and student concert.

Erin is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, the National Music Honor Fraternity (Inducted 2007), the National Flute Association and Phi Eta Sigma (Inducted 2005). She is a sister of Sigma Alpha Iota, in which she served as Eta Pi Chapter President (2006-2007), Recording Secretary (2005-2006) and Fraternity Education Officer (2004).