

2024 Long Bio

Renowned flutist Mihoko Watanabe, hailing from Japan, holds the position of flute professor at Ball State University, where her influence resonates globally in music. With a career marked by accolades and artistic brilliance, she embodies unparalleled excellence in both performance and education. Beyond her role as an educator, Dr. Watanabe spearheads the Certificate in Entrepreneurial Studies in Music program and leads as the Woodwind Area Coordinator. Her dedication to teaching has garnered prestigious recognition, including the Dean's Teaching Excellence (2016) and Creative Endeavor (2014) awards.

Dr. Watanabe's journey in music education commenced with esteemed teaching positions at institutions like the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and the University of Windsor in Canada. Her remarkable flute prowess has earned her acclaim through victories in competitions hosted by organizations such as the Japan Flute Association and the National Flute Association (NFA), solidifying her status as a brilliant performer. Her virtuosity as a soloist, chamber musician, and concerto performer transcends mere admiration to evoke awe. Involvement in ensembles like the Musical Arts Quintet, Duo Viva, Duo Rouge, Trio Piacere, and the Hibiki Trio has not only garnered acclaim but also secured prestigious grants and invitations to perform at renowned national and international events.

Dr. Watanabe has captivated audiences worldwide, showcasing her versatility and ability to connect across diverse cultures.

Aside from ensemble work, Dr. Watanabe has held principal flute positions in the United States and Canada, showcasing her exceptional talent on prestigious global stages. She has premiered significant works and taught at respected festivals, including the Brevard Music Festival, Fresno Orchestra and Opera Summer Academy, InterHarmony, and Global Summer Institute of Music. Dr. Watanabe's dedication to music education and outreach shines as a beacon for aspiring musicians. She conducts masterclasses, workshops, and adjudicated competitions worldwide, generously imparting her expertise. Her innovative teaching methods and commitment to pedagogy have earned recognition in Flute Talk magazine, further solidifying her influence in music education. Her dedication to nurturing the next generation promises a brighter future for music.

Driven by her passion for ethnomusicology, Dr. Watanabe has delved into research focused on Japanese traditional music in the ethnomusicology specialist program at the University of Michigan. Her scholarly pursuits have led to publications, lecture-recitals, and international presentations, establishing her as an authority in the field and enriching the understanding of World Music in the Western Classical music realm.

As an advocate for entrepreneurial studies in music, Dr. Watanabe established the Entrepreneurial Studies in Music certificate program at Ball State University. She actively engages in workshops and conferences, advocating for innovative approaches to music education and career development. Her leadership roles within musical organizations reflect her unwavering commitment to advancing the music community.

With degrees from prestigious institutions, including the University of Michigan, the Eastman

School of Music, and Musashino Academia Musicae in Tokyo, guided by esteemed mentors, as such Prof. Leone Buyse, Prof. Bonita Boyd, and Mr. Takao Saeki, Dr. Watanabe remains dedicated to expanding her musical horizons through ongoing education and collaboration. In summary, Mihoko Watanabe epitomizes excellence, artistry, and a steadfast dedication to the transformative power of music, inspiring musicians worldwide through her contributions to flute performance, education, and scholarship.