

# NRC Music News

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## **Young Musicians: An Interview with Jacqueline Wright**



Jackie played for the Christmas special music service on December 22, 2019.

*“Yes, it’s about music and flute playing, but it’s also about dedication, setting goals and reaching them, commitments, putting yourself on the line and being nervous in a safe environment.”*

That’s what Jacqueline “Jackie” Wright says about teaching her students. You may not realize it but Jackie is a part of our community here at Niskayuna Reformed Church. She teaches private flute lessons on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings downstairs in the Education Building and other weekdays from her home in

Glenmont. She has anywhere from 20 - 25 students at any given time ranging in age from 8 - 68, most of whom are students in area school districts. Twice a year, for the past seven years, she has held a recital for her students in the church sanctuary.

Jackie has a Bachelor’s of Music degree in Flute Performance and Music Education K-12 from the University of Rhode Island, a Masters of Orchestral Conducting from the University of Florida and a Masters of Flute Performance from the University of Michigan. During her classroom teaching experience in Michigan she realized she wanted to teach students one-on-one most of all. Now that she and her husband Jeremy, Curator of Ichthyology at the New York State Museum, are done being academic nomads, Jackie is making her way as a freelance musician. This year two of her students were invited to NYSSMA’s All-State Symphony Orchestra in Rochester (New York State School Music Association). Her students are regularly invited to participate in honors festivals including Area All-State and Suburban Council, as well as in ensembles of the Empire State Youth Orchestra program (ESYO) for which she is a frequent coach. You can learn more about Jackie’s career and her teaching methodology at her professional website [jmwflute.com](http://jmwflute.com).

## **Music and Worship:**

### **An Interview with Nina Farrell**

*Nina Farrell, one of our newest choir members, shares how she came to sing with the Niskayuna Reformed Church. To read more about Nina's family, career and diagnosis of Lupus and Fibromyalgia please go to the church website under Church Groups Music Ministry:*

***<https://www.niskayunareformed.org>***

#### **Can you please tell us about joining the choir?**

Before joining the choir I would sing at home to God. I felt so connected to spirit and so fulfilled even more than I do when praying alone. It's as if voice has power to raise our frequency to connect with God. Joining Niskayuna Reformed Church I was so excited to find it has its own choir. With no background in music there would be safety in numbers and I could learn to sing and read music. It's been all that I hoped for and more. The winter months are so depressing but I look forward to practice and going to church on Sunday.

#### **What else would you like for people to know about you, about music and worship?**

Having an opportunity to reach many in this newsletter I want to take a moment to speak to you about invisible illness. Not every illness is visible and this can make lives of those suffering with an invisible illness easy to be discriminated against. Having symptoms that are not visible makes it hard for others to empathize. Several years ago I was diagnosed with lupus and fibromyalgia. People see me on my best days, dressed and with makeup on, while only my husband and son see the previous

three days I spent in bed unable to move. Autoimmune disease makes a person susceptible to other rare diseases and cancers. For me it has taken my career, athletic hobbies, and financial stability. It's hard on the family emotionally and financially. We have worked hard at readjusting our lives to make room for these conditions to live with us. It has been a difficult transition. The choir and finding a home at Niskayuna Reformed Church has been one of the few blessings. The group is supportive and singing helps me with my cognitive struggles.



**Nina Farrell**

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*Articles for this newsletter were submitted and/or edited by Joyce Anderson and Jennifer Politano.*

