Demarre McGill

2025-26 Biography

Demarre McGill has gained international recognition as one of the premier flutists of his generation, celebrated for his lyrical expressiveness and technical prowess. Winner of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Sphinx Medal of Excellence, McGill has appeared as a soloist with renowned orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the San Francisco, Seattle, Pittsburgh, Dallas, Grant Park, San Diego, Chicago, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras. His captivating performances have earned him critical acclaim and a distinguished place in the world of classical music.

Currently serving as the principal flute of the Seattle Symphony, McGill has previously held principal flute positions with the Dallas Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Florida Orchestra, and Santa Fe Opera Orchestra. He has also served as acting principal flute with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

In the 2025-26 season, Demarre McGill appears in collaboration with Chamber Music San Francisco, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Music of the Baroque, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. As a soloist, McGill appears with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, the Peninsula Symphony, Symphony Tacoma, the Olympia Symphony, and the Fresno Philharmonic.

As an educator, Demarre McGill is committed to inspiring and nurturing the next generation of musicians. He has coached and presented master classes in South Africa, South Korea, Japan, Quebec, and throughout the United States. He has served on the faculties of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States, the National Orchestral Institute at the University of Maryland, the Orford Music Festival, Summerfest at the Curtis Institute of Music, Sarasota Music Festival, and the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival in South Africa. Additionally, McGill spent seven years as the Associate Professor of Flute at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and has been an artist-faculty member of the Aspen Music Festival and School since 2017.

Demarre McGill is also a founding member of the Myriad Trio and a former member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Bowers Program. He is the co-founder of Art of Élan and is a regular participant in prestigious chamber music festivals such as Santa Fe, Marlboro, Seattle, and Stellenbosch. In 2014, McGill co-founded the McGill/McHale Trio with his brother clarinetist Anthony McGill and pianist Michael McHale. Their debut CD, "Portraits," released in August 2017, has received rave reviews, as has "Winged Creatures," his recording with Anthony McGill and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra.

A champion for accessibility and relevance in classical music, Demarre McGill actively promotes the works of underrepresented composers and engages in projects that highlight diverse cultural perspectives. His media credits include appearances on PBS's Live from Lincoln Center, A&E Network's The Gifted Ones, NBC's Today Show, NBC Nightly News, and, along with his brother Anthony, on Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood.

Born in Chicago, Demarre McGill began studying the flute at age 7 and attended the Merit School of Music. In the years that followed, he studied with Susan Levitin. Demarre received his Bachelor's degree from The Curtis Institute of Music and a Master's degree from The Juilliard School. Demarre McGill is a Yamaha Performing Artist.

For additional background, please visit https://www.demarremcgill.com/.

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