

Karen Grzesiak, Bassoon

Karen Grzesiak earned a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Hiram College, and although her main academic focus was on the sciences, she also pursued her love of music, studying flute, piano, and recorder. In her professional career, she worked for a flux manufacturing company and a pharmaceutical company in various areas including product development, quality assurance and project management.

She left the laboratory to be a stay at home mom when her son was born, and at that time turned her attention back to music. She played with a number of groups in Ohio, including the Stow Chamber Orchestra, where she was principal flutist and Executive Director. The highlight of her tenure there was performing Eric Ewazen's Concerto for Flute and Chamber Orchestra, when she had the privilege of working directly with Eric.

Always interested in new musical challenges and experiences, Karen began learning bassoon in 2000, and was soon playing with various bands and orchestras. Karen currently plays bassoon with the Undercroft Opera, Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra and the Tuesday Musical Club. In her spare time, Karen enjoys gardening, cooking, reading and fantasy sports.