

Alexa Still Biography



Alexa Still is known for her distinctive performances and a rich discography. Originally from New Zealand, Alexa won competitions including the New York Flute Club Young Artist Competition and the East and West Artists Competition while doing graduate studies. At age 23, while completing a DMA at SUNY Stony Brook, she won the position of Principal Flute of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Further honors include the Churchill Fellowship and a Fulbright award, which encouraged a focus on pedagogy. Alexa eventually joined the Oberlin Conservatory in 2011 where she has received the award for teaching excellence and the NEA professorship. During the summer, regular engagements include the Round Top Festival (Texas), Orford Musique (Quebec) and Aria Academy.

Performance highlights include notable premiers in Australasia and the U.S., as well as solo engagements with organizations like the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Colorado Music Festival, the Albany Symphony, the Long Island Philharmonic, the Simon Bolivar Orchestra, Istanbul Chamber Orchestra, every orchestra in New Zealand, the Takacs Quartet, and the percussion ensemble Nexus. Alexa won The American Prize 2024 for Instrumental Performance.

Alexa's discography boasts over 20 highly acclaimed CDs. Reviews from esteemed publications include Fanfare Magazine: "Still creates a rainbow of colors within the range we might call 'beautiful'. You just won't hear better-sustained flute playing than this, or more subtle, characterful phrasing: real, warm, communicative musicality.", Sequenza 21: "Reviewers far and wide agree that Alexa Still doesn't make anything sound tough. She gracefully sprints and hurdles through menacing challenges without seeming to break a sweat. Added to this technical superiority comes an equally sensitive musical side.", and Gramophone Magazine: "Whatever she plays sounds musical in every turn of the phrase...."

Recent world premiere recordings include her recording of Mathew Hindson's House Music, now available as a digital download, SONY Korea's inaugural release in high-definition audio (2022), "Finding Home," showcasing Michael Fine's Concierto Del Luna with Ensemble Bravura and guitarist Jason Vieaux, and Aaron J Kernis' Air, and Alexa's latest solo disc including five premiers, "WISH," featuring music by Valerie Coleman, with pianist Evan Hines and spoken word by Carmen Twillie Ambar. "WISH" was released on the Oberlin label in 2023.

Alexa has contributed to her profession serving as the President of the National Flute Association (USA) and authoring articles for flute publications worldwide. She performs on a silver flute by Brannen Brothers of Boston, complemented by gold or wooden headjoints by Sanford Drelinger of White Plains, New York. When not immersed in music, Alexa enjoys motorcycling, nature and her elderly rescue dogs.

Short Bio (232 words)

Alexa Still is known internationally primarily through her 20+ recordings that have garnered unanimous praise: *"impeccable in technique and taste, seductive in phrasing"* (Stephensen Classical C D Guide). *"Still plays... so convincingly I cannot separate her from the music"* (American Record Guide), *"whatever she plays sounds musical in every turn of the phrase"* (Gramophone), *"a stunning showcase for the astonishing Alexa Still"* (Fanfare). *"Still showcases her exquisite lyricism and virtuosity on every track"* Cleveland Classical. Alexa got her doctorate in New York (SUNY Stony Brook), won competitions including the New York Flute Club Young Artist Competition, and, East and West Artists Competition and then at 23, returned home as principal flute of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Other awards include a Churchill Fellowship, a Fulbright, and the American Prize for Instrumental Performance, 2024. Alexa left the NZSO to devote more time to solo engagements and teaching at the University of Colorado at Boulder, then the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (where she was also director of Performance Research), and since 2011, the Oberlin Conservatory. Alexa has also performed as soloist in 16 countries, including many world premiers. Alexa's articles have been read around the globe, and she has served her profession as President of the National Flute Association (USA). When her flute is in its case, Alexa loves old dogs and motorcycles. You can read much more about Alexa on her website: <http://www.alexastill.com/>

Shortest Bio (158 words)

Alexa Still, Oberlin Conservatory's flute professor, is from New Zealand and won the New York Flute Club's Young Artist Competition a LONG time ago, during graduate studies with Samuel Baron at SUNY Stony Brook and privately with Thomas Nyfenger. Other awards include East and West Artists Competition, a Fulbright grant, a Churchill Fellowship and the American Prize for Instrumental Performance, 2024. Alexa returned home to be principal flute of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. After 11 years, she left the orchestra to focus more on teaching and her solo career, including 20+ commercial recordings on multiple labels and solo performances in 16 countries (including many premiers). Regular summer engagements include Orford Musique (Quebec), Aria Academy (MA) and Round Top Music Festival (TX). Alexa has also been president, program chair and board member of the National Flute Association.

Alexa's activities beyond music include senior rescue dogs and motorcycles. You can read much more about Alexa on her website: <http://www.alexastill.com/>