

## ELIZABETH ASHMEAD, PICCOLO AND FLUTE



Elizabeth Ashmead, flutist and piccoloist with the San Diego Symphony, was born in Los Angeles and grew up in South Pasadena and Saratoga, California. In high school, she studied flute with Paul Renzi, then principal flutist with the San Francisco Symphony. She is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with the distinguished flutist and teacher Joseph Mariano. Liz joined the San Diego Symphony as piccoloist in 1975 and has made her home here since then. She has performed as soloist with the orchestra on both flute and piccolo.

Like many musicians, Liz was introduced to music by members of her family: "I have two older brothers who play the trumpet and trombone," she said. "I wanted to study music as well. When I was nine, my elementary school music teacher told me the band had openings for clarinets and flutes. I had an immediate affinity with the flute and jumped at the chance to learn to play it."

About the San Diego Symphony, Liz Ashmead says, "Our orchestra is a special musical organization. My colleagues care deeply about symphonic music and are dedicated professionals. Guest conductors and soloists often share with us their appreciation of our enthusiasm and our love of music."

Liz is a teacher and coach, a lifelong runner, and an enthusiastic crossword puzzler, amusing herself with both standard and cryptic puzzles. She is a member of the San Diego River Park Foundation, the California Native Plant Society, and the Save The Redwoods League.

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### ***Getting to know Liz Ashmead...***

**Q: How did you choose your instrument?**

A: My older brothers played trumpet and trombone. I wanted something less noisy. Ironically, I ended up specializing in the piccolo. Seriously, I loved the flute from day one.

**Q: What is your favorite travel destination?**

A: Amsterdam

**Q: Who are some of your favorite composers?**

A: Shostakovich, Bruckner, Sibelius and Brahms.

**Q: What do you love most about San Diego (other than the weather)?**

A: The beautiful nature and the variety of wildlife.

**Q: What is your choice for dining in San Diego?**

A: Amarin, El Zarape, Ono Sushi

**Q: Where might you find me on a Saturday night if I'm not performing with the Symphony?**

A: At home, nesting

**Q: The non-musical accomplishment you are most proud of is...?**

A: Running the half-marathon in 1:39.

**Q: What is your favorite San Diego Symphony memory?**

A: Too many to choose from.