

Floboe Productions Studio Electronic Press Kit

Short Bio

A hybrid-arts ensemble, Floboe Productions Studio's combines the creative ideas and musical abilities of James Brinkmann and Alli Gessner. FPS premiered their comedic, theatrical performance "Concerto for Frenemies" in 2017 in Chicago IL, and continues to present this show around the US. The duo continues to engage with new communities, aspiring to bring joy and excitement to audiences through their blending of classical music, storytelling, art, drama, comedy, and performance. Their second storytelling production, "Floboe's Latin American Vacation" premieres in October 2019 on the Community School of Music and Arts' Community Concert Series in Mountain View, CA.

Long Bio

A hybrid-arts ensemble, Floboe Productions Studio (FPS) engages audiences in classical music by fusing chamber music, storytelling, audience interaction, and interdisciplinary elements.

The first time we heard the word floboe was during orchestra rehearsal at DePaul University. While oboist Alli and flutist James played, our sounds seemed to blend effortlessly and naturally. Becoming floboe became a joy for us. After graduation, we found ways to keep our floboe sound alive through playing in a community orchestra and on the Southwest Michigan Symphony's Summer Casual Classics in St. Joseph, MI.

In 2017, we premiered our first storytelling show, *Concerto for Frenemies*, a comedic musical production of Mozart's C/D Concerto for Oboe/Flute. We connected with our community through two successful IndieGoGo fundraising campaigns. The show was featured in the Chicago Tribune's "Recommended Chicago Classical Concerts" by Jon Von Rhein and has been hosted by the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) Community Concert Series, where the audience was filled to 90% capacity. *Concerto for Frenemies* continues to travel around the country while FPS develops more storytelling shows. CSMA invited FPS to premiere their second storytelling show, *Floboe's Latin American Vacation*, in which the ensemble travels to Latin American and has to maneuver through tricky travel mishaps, cultural conflict, unfamiliar musical styles, and find their groove.

FPS has performed in Chicago, IL at PianoForte Studios, Merit School of Music, and on the Community School of Music and Arts Community Concerts Series in Mountain View, CA.

Now in our fourth season, we continue to create new shows and engage with communities. We aspire to bring joy and excitement to our audiences through our passion for classical music and storytelling.

Concerto for Frenemies Full Summary

Concerto for Frenemies is a fusion of classical music and theatre with comedic elements thrown in to keep things light hearted. Mozart wrote a concerto for oboe in C Major in 1777, and the following year he transcribed it to D Major for flute. Oboists and flutists have both claimed this concerto as their own, and still disagree as to whose edition is better and whose instrument Mozart would have preferred to play the concerto! We take Mozart's Concerto in C Major for Oboe and its twin Concerto in D Major for Flute, put them together, sometimes simultaneously, and transform the performance into a story. We use costumes and props to travel back in time to the year 1787 and once there, the Divas and Under-Appreciated Accompanist take control of the story and the music.

Plot: It is the year 1787, and Concerto for Frenemies tells the story of a flutist and oboist who are invited to perform at a celebration of Mozart's music. The two Divas have been rivals for years and happened to prepare the same piece. They each try to upstage the other and prove their musical dominance, while the Under-Appreciated Accompanist tries to hold the performance together. Rivalry, impoliteness, short tempers, a little romance, and of course, Mozart's music, reign supreme in this comedic classical music production.

A typical classical music performance often asks that the audience sit quietly during the music, but we've thrown that tradition out with this production. In addition to our three musician characters, the audience is an essential character in the show. We ask for applause during the performance, sometimes while we play, and encourage the audience to cheer, laugh, and sometime heckle us throughout our performance. In Concerto for Frenemies, the audience gets the unique opportunity to become a participant in the concert. Our novel audience engagement model gives the reluctant audience member an approachable experience at a classical music concert, perhaps encouraging their attendance at future classical music concerts. The lighthearted portrayal of musical stereotypes also makes the show fun, engaging, and relevant for musicians and music enthusiasts.

Video: https://youtu.be/kfx7b_wuAX0

Latin American Vacation Full Summary

Latin American Vacation is a production which explores music from and inspired by Latin American musical styles and genres. It combines elements of classical music and theatre, emerging as an original storytelling performance. Our two main characters, one the straight-laced academic and the other a free-spirited adventurer, take a vacation to three Latin American countries. Along the way they create “Youtube” vlogs and meet talented pianists, other hotel guests (the audience), and a flight attendant. The plot thickens as their personalities and viewpoints clash - what makes a piece of music authentic to a particular country’s musical tradition?

During the development of this project we realized that we had a lot of easily accessible pieces that were influenced by Latin American cultures, musical traditions, and places to choose from, but struggled to find music by Latin American composers. We chose to integrate the debate of authenticity into the plot of the show, hoping to inspire our audience to have a conversation about the roots of the music they listen to.

Past Performances

October 12 2019	“Floboe’s Latin American Vacation” at CSMA in Mountain View, CA
June 1 2019	“Concerto for Frenemies” at CSMA in Mountain View, CA
April 13-14 2018	“Concerto for Frenemies” at Piano Forte in Chicago, IL
Jan, Feb 2017	“Concerto for Frenemies” premiere at Merit School of Music in Chicago, IL
Summer 2015	“Sounds of Summer” at SMSO’s Casual Classics Series in St. Joseph, MI

Upcoming Performances

TBD summer 2020	“Concerto for Frenemies” performance tour in South Carolina*
TBD	“Concerto for Frenemies” performance with Albion College Orchestra*

*In negotiations







