

# Teaching the World to Play

The Galways' magic flutes at the Hult

**S**ir James Galway, with uncountable recordings and more than 30 million albums sold, is a classical and crossover superstar. The principal flutist for the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra under legendary Herbert von Karajan in the early 1970s, Sir James has also played with the Chieftains and, perhaps most famously for movie fans, for the music to *The Lord of the Rings*. But Eugene Symphony Artistic Director and conductor Giancarlo Guerrero knows the real reason why seemingly everyone, from blues aficionados to punk fans to those who usually listen to bubblegum pop, has heard of the flutist. And we're talking fuzzy puppets here: "He's been on every possible children's program; I remember watching him on *Sesame Street* several times growing up."



Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway

And now the legend is coming here, continuing the Eugene Symphony and Guerrero's run of prestigious visiting musicians, from Yo-Yo Ma and Itzak Perlman last year to the Galways and Renée Fleming this season.

Sir James and his wife, flutist Lady Jeanne Galway, play a just-post-Valentine's Day concert with the Symphony Feb. 15 in support of their album *My Magic Flute*, released last Sept. by Deutsche Grammophon. With the Symphony, the Galways will be playing Mozart's Flute Concerto No. 2 and Cimarosa's Concerto for 2 Flutes. "It was an unusual surprise to have two Galways for the price of one," Guerrero says. "It is a great honor for me to work with him!" The concert will most likely sell out, and Symphony Board President Mary Ann Hansen can't wait to look out into another full house at the Hult Center. Of course, that's nothing new for the Galways. "I think classical music is doing well," Sir James said by phone from his home in Meggen, Switzerland.

Certainly, he and his wife try to help that statement come true; they provide master classes wherever they go, but they also work with younger students. Lady Galway says that's part of the joy. "They're so open and eager, and when a child succeeds, you can see them growing." Both Sir James and Lady Galway work with Flutewise, a volunteer-run organization that focuses its efforts on getting flutes and instruction to low-income students and students with disabilities.

Sir James says his favorite thing about

working with students is that "it's such a huge experience to put your finger on what they need next." On Sir James' website ([www.thegalwaynetwork.com](http://www.thegalwaynetwork.com)), he and others host a "flute chat" wherein flute students get real-time advice and help with their music and careers. The website also boasts a remarkable list of interviews: Sir James with Renée Fleming; Sir James with Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson; Sir James with up-and-coming flutist Emmanuel Pahud, and many, many more, all accessible to

those who love the Internet. That's one way to broadcast education and information, they say.

"We try to share our gifts with everyone," Lady Galway says, and Guerrero is pleased that their knowledge will benefit Eugene. Sir James is giving a master class for the students of UO flute professor Nancy Andrew on Valentine's Day, working with Kristin Halay, the principal flute for the Symphony. And he'll do a Q&A session with the audience afterwards. He's ready to give his advice to every student: practice, practice, practice! When he was a young flute player in Belfast, he says, the flute was to his lips "from the time I woke up in the morning until the time I went to bed." Now, with his busy touring, teaching and recording schedule, he gets three to four hours of practice "on a good day." But all of those hours of practicing, not to mention his 32-year solo career and intense schedule, remain a benefit to his playing.

"He's electricity on stage," Guerrero says. "I have the best seat in the house, and I'm looking forward to it!"

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