

# Get to know your *Symphony*

Fall 2010

## **Diane Czaplewski:** *The wannabe flutist*

**D**iane Czaplewski was 10 years old. She had been playing a plastic recorder for a year and was finally old enough to join her school's band.

She happily went down to the office to sign up. Her heart was set on playing the flute.

"All we have is violins left," she was told.

Forty years later, the letdown is still etched in her mind to this day.

"I just remember that moment vividly," she said.

She reported the news to her mother.

"You gonna play violin? That's what they have, that's what you're going to take."

It didn't take long for the pre-teen to fall in love with her only musical option. Playing came easy, and her parents didn't need to push her as she practiced every day on her own.

"I like how it seems to be a more emotional, passionate instrument," she said. "It's supposed to be the closest thing to the human voice so maybe that's why it's emotional."

Czaplewski was classically trained with classes at UW-Milwaukee and the Conservatory of Music, and private



lessons. But the Mukwonago native whose parents and grandparents bought her Beatles albums she cherished plays and appreciates a wide variety of music. That diversity was among the elements that drew her to the Kettle Moraine Symphony Orchestra.

In 2002, Czaplewski attended the KMS' annual pops concert and thought, "I want to play with them."

She auditioned, earned a spot and has enjoyed every note since. The KMS, she said, is special.

“They’re a real, real nice group of people, talented and easy to get along with,” Czaplewski said.

She isn’t your typical violinist. The down-to-earth, friendly and warm West Bend resident disproves the stereotype violinists are snobs. And while classical music maintains her technique, she ventures into many other genres, unlike most violinists.

Czaplewski plays with a guitar in a duo called The Eclectic Mix, performing at West Bend’s Farmer’s Market and local charity events. She also is a member of a quartet called Angelic Strings that does weddings and social events.

“I like to be well-rounded that way,” she said.

Her musical listening tastes run as much of a gamut. Her favorite composers are Bach, Vivaldi, Jeff Talman and Camille Saint-Saens. She follows violinists like Mark O’Connor, among others. She enjoys the bluegrass music of Vessel Clemens, Kenny Baker and Guy Carter.

The Beatles remain one of her favorite groups, and Czaplewski likes 1970’s and ‘80’s rock. While she prefers music from the library that doesn’t get airplay, she does appreciate modern acts like Train, Coldplay, Dave Matthews and Keith Urban.

In addition to playing, Czaplewski has served as a member of the KMS Board of Directors the past two years.

She is thrilled she got to work with KMS founder and 43-year director, the recently retired Bud Asch, “the icon for the symphony from day one,” and already enjoys the direction of Paul Thorgaard.

“I admire him for being able to conduct the music and how intense that is, and the study that goes into it,” she said.

Czaplewski is married to Michael, who doesn’t play but does like music, “luckily,” she said with a laugh, and has three grown children, all women. In some way, shape or form, music is part of each of their lives.

Good thing all they had left were violins.

