

Susan Aspray, Oboe

Susan Aspray began playing oboe in the 6th grade. She studied with Gladys Elliot, Principal Oboist at the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Ray Still, Principal Oboist of the Chicago Symphony, from the age of 15 through completion of her graduate work at Northwestern University, in Evanston, IL where she received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Oboe Performance. Shortly after her time at Northwestern, Susan relocated to San Francisco where she worked at the University of California-Berkeley as a grant writer and research contract administrator before opting to become a full-time mother to two children, now grown. She moved to Tampa to be near family. She was introduced to the Tampa Bay Symphony by violist Karen Mamel in 2013. She credits Karen, Darlene Davis, Lane Lederer and Mark Sforzini for her return to oboe playing after a long hiatus. To date, Susan's most memorable musical experiences have been as a student of Ray Still, a camper at the National Music Camp in Interlochen, MI, a fellow at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, CA, a \$3 student ticket holder to dozens of Chicago Symphony concerts conducted by Sir Georg Solti in the 1980s and last season's TBS Richard Strauss 'Four Last Songs' performances. Susan is proud to be a member of the Tampa Bay Symphony, a wonderful orchestra that also promotes the work of 21st century composers.