



# Ashley C. Watkins BIOGRAPHY

## Overview

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Meet Ashley Watkins, a highly skilled flutist whose musical prowess transcends boundaries. With a profound dedication to her craft, this accomplished flutist possesses a professional talent that mesmerizes audiences with each exquisite note. Soloists of her caliber provide an internal path that highlights discipline and full vibrant tonal intensity. This helps explain the reason her technical precision, expressive interpretation, and dynamic range create a captivating sonic fusion making every performance a transcendent experience for listeners.

Explosive, electric, astonishing, introspective, and generational are transformative descriptors that solidly build the platform upon which she stands, as well. With only the passage of time and the ability to reach audiences yet unveiled, she shall intuitively define the vast extent of her contribution to musical expression and performance structures.

Ashley breathes life into compositions, delivering artistic presentations that linger in the hearts and minds of those fortunate enough to witness her musical artistry. Knowing imperfection is by design, universal understanding of the nuances of musical connectivity in the pursuit of excellence, mildly attempts to describe what she does but more importantly, it gives credence to the reason she desires to touch all audiences. She says, “I am not complicated, I just love performing.”

It also must be mentioned that, humility, unpretentiousness with a hint of provocative vigor help focus the primacy of her personal development and interactive presence. These billings arrange the depths of how she is musically cloaked. They are nonetheless true but fall well short of a perfect firm blend.

Ashley decided to launch her musical career as a solo flutist as many do, unassuming, reserved and simple. But with a monumental purpose, as a musician who plays one of the most challenging wind instruments in the orchestra, most have commented that Ashley is among the best they have ever heard. After a solo performance a patron commented that her presentation was “extremely emotional and utterly breathtaking.” Recognition of her talent has generated huge interest across the Mid-Atlantic region. During an interview with Mickey Love, former host of “for the love of Art” on WCEM AM, Ashley was lauded as an “outstanding talent and an amazing flutist.”

With major support from family, friends and community, the future with positive results for such a stellar musician is a doorway waiting to open with unbridled richness and fulfillment.

Possessing a traditional and progressive portfolio, her flute virtuosity has helped to enhance orchestras, chamber ensembles, jazz collectives and instrumental technicians who push the boundaries of sound and organizational presentation. Many of her solo performances have been presented at ecumenical events and services, as well as intimate venues and quaint arenas: wedding ceremonies, wedding receptions, home going services, banquets, retirements, recitals, recognition ceremonies, class reunions, special anniversaries and parties.

These include but are not limited to the following presentations: Recitalist at The Dorchester Center for the Arts; as a special guest at the Conference of United Methodist Bishops; The Conference of Episcopal Bishops; Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Banquet; Howard University School of Music Flute Fete; solo recitalist at the Athenaeum in Northern VA; The Harriet Tubman Center Dedication Banquet; guest flutist at “Thank God for Jazz”, The Clifford Brown Jazz Festival’s opening event; and as previously mentioned, many, many, commemorative memorials, ceremonial services and celebrative galas.

A native of Cambridge, Maryland, Ashley began playing flute as a member of her grade school music program. At an early age, she took private flute lessons from a local instructor. Her studies and interest continued with auditions and appointments to regional youth orchestras. She held memberships in the Washington, DC Youth Orchestra, where she toured South Africa; the Peabody Sinfonietta at the Peabody Conservatory of Music; and the Potomac Valley Youth Orchestra. As a young flutist, she attended many masterclasses and flute seminars throughout the Eastern Seaboard, while being a member in many diverse flute choirs and wind ensembles as well.

Ashley received an undergraduate degree in music performance from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia under Dr. Beth Chandler Cahill, a graduate-degree in music performance from Akron University in Akron, Ohio under George Pope, and a 2023 Diploma of distinction presented by the Orchestra of Americas worldwide OAcademy Music Conservatory.