

# Go for Baroque

FEATURE STORY: PARTHENA OWENS

## SOUNDS GREEK TO ME

Parthena Grigsby Owens was already a veteran performer by the time she heard her first orchestra concert. The Kansas native came early to one experience and late to the other.

She began to study piano when she was six. By the time she was eight years old, she was taking flute lessons. And almost immediately after that she started performing.

Parthena grew up in rural western Kansas, where there wasn't a lot of music going on. She commuted sixty miles to her flute lessons every week. Soon she was playing for church services and 4-H functions throughout the state of Kansas.

Between high school graduation and her freshman year of college, Parthena was chosen to tour Europe with the *U.S. Collegiate Wind Band*, under the direction of Al Wright of Purdue University.

She received her Bachelor's Degree from Oklahoma City University, following which she was accepted as a masters student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where she studied with Walfrid Kujala of the *Chicago Symphony Orchestra*.



Parthena began her professional career in 1982 playing flute and piccolo with the *Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra*. She has appeared as Principal Flutist with the *Omaha Symphony*, the *Lawton Philharmonic*, and the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*. She currently performs with the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*, **Go for Baroque**, and the *Lyric Theatre Orchestra*.

Currently she holds a post as adjunct flute professor at Oklahoma City University, and has previously taught at Cameron University, University of Science and Arts in Chickasha, and Southern Nazarene University.

Concerning long-term professional goals, Parthena says, "I am very happy with life. My growth comes with every performance. I learn through every musical experience. My passion is teaching my students. I am so proud of their successes in music. My ultimate joy is our son Cameron. Whether he's on the baseball field, at piano contest, karate class or preparing a book report, he gives 110%. He's our long-term investment!" For more information, visit [goforbaroque.org](http://goforbaroque.org) or call 405-840-0278.