

Video Transcript: Human Connections

Lorna McGhee, Principal Flute, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra:

When I received that email message from Kris, the therapist, I wrote back to her and I said, “It’s so enjoyable and rewarding to play for the veterans, and the kind of interaction that we had there was just wonderful. You know, it’s really wonderful; it’s just connecting on a human level.” Here at the symphony of course, our role is—it’s a different dimension here at the symphony, but really the essence is the same. It’s this human connection that we want to make with our audience. To be able to have that connection in a small setting at the hospital, and in such a meaningful way, is very, very important because it makes you remember why you’re in music in the first place. Of course when you’re on stage at Heinz Hall there are many, many demands made on you, and you know, you’re always striving for perfection. But you never, ever want to lose sight of that human connection that you experience in such a vivid way at the hospital, so it’s very informative in terms of our music making here on the stage at Heinz Hall. I wrote to Kris and I said, “It’s just as rewarding and enjoyable and as meaningful to go and play at the veteran’s hospital as it is to play on the stage at Carnegie Hall in New York.” So, it’s a hugely valuable part of my life as a musician and as part of my life here at the Pittsburgh Symphony.