

Marni Constantino, a native of Great Falls, Montana graduated from Great Falls High School in 1983. Her love for the bassoon began in 1976 when her music teacher, John Kohler, asked her to take the bassoon home with her and give it a “try”. It was love at first sight! She had many great teachers, Dennis Dell, Bill Larson, Gordon Johnson and of course, Gordon and Mary Richards, who encouraged her to pursue her dream of becoming a professional musician. Marni played in the Great Falls Symphony from 1982-1983 as a community volunteer and was a winner in the Great Falls Symphony Young Artist Competition in 1982. She attended the University of Montana at Missoula and in 1988 received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Bassoon Performance.

Marni’s goal, from a very young age, had always been to play in a military band. When the Air Force Band of the Pacific Northwest scheduled a performance in Missoula a month before graduation she was thrilled! She set up an audition and passed. Before she knew it, she was signing on the dotted line and performing with the band that very night! Before she could play full-time with the Air Force Band of the Pacific Northwest, Marni was invited to attend an all expense paid vacation (provided by the United States Government) to Lackland Air Force Base, in San Antonio, Texas. (Yes, Basic Training!!!) Six weeks of fun in the sun she will never forget which included passing out in the heat and breaking her nose! **Highlights of her musical career include performances for Pope John Paul, Vice President Dan Quayle, President Bill Clinton and then first lady Hilary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and Tipper Gore, and one of Bob Hope’s last live performance in Las Vegas.** While in the Air Force Band, Marni met (and married) her husband, lead and jazz trumpet player Jay Constantino. (Boy did that cause quite a stir, marrying a jazzer!!!) Following her honorable discharge in 1996, Marni became a member of the Missouri Air National Guard Band. During this time she also taught music at Southern University of Illinois in Edwardsville and freelanced in the St. Louis area. Upon Jay retiring for the Air Force Band of Mid America, Marni and her husband returned to Great Falls in the summer of 2000.

Marni became a member of the Chinook Winds and Great Falls Symphony from 2002 through 2010. Besides performing with the Symphony and Chinook Winds, Marni has also been the bookkeeper for Cascade Electric. She has a private teaching studio with twenty seven students and is an active volunteer in the music program at Our Lady of Lourdes School. Her goal is to have as many kids as possible experience the joy of playing the bassoon! Marni and her husband Jay have five children, two cats, two dogs, two turtles and a hamster!