



## Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research  
Conference

2006, 17th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 8th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

# The Integration of Women into the Flute Sections of Major American Orchestras from 1950 to the Present

Deborah Boersma

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

William West, Faculty Advisor

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Deborah Boersma and William West, Faculty Advisor, "The Integration of Women into the Flute Sections of Major American Orchestras from 1950 to the Present" (April 8, 2006). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. Paper 4. <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2006/posters/4>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentation P11

**THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE FLUTE SECTIONS OF MAJOR  
AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS FROM 1950 TO THE PRESENT**

Deborah Boersma and William West\*  
School of Music, Illinois Wesleyan University

Over the past fifty years, the integration of women into the flute section of orchestras has been marked with significant events. These events include the absence of male musicians during World War II, the hiring of Doriot Anthony Dwyer as principal flutists of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and changes in the hiring practices of orchestras in the United States. Research has shown that women have found increased opportunities in the world of orchestral flutists in recent years. The findings of this study determine that women have been increasingly successful in joining the ranks of the major symphony orchestras in America. These successes indicate the improved proportion between the number of trained female flutists and the number of active female orchestral flutists. This research supports other findings that have shown women making further advancements in their careers as society's attitude towards working women has evolved.