

# Artists Among Us—Dr. Carolyn Kubik: Reproductive Health Specialist Rediscovered the Oboe

By Christopher Cussat

Carolyn Kubik, M.D. is an obstetrician and gynecologist with expertise in male and female infertility. With a focus in reproductive endocrinology and infertility (REI) and experience with assisted reproductive technologies (ART), Kubik performs infertility treatments and additionally serves as co-owner and medical director at the privately-owned Reproductive Health Specialists located in Penn Hills.

While her fertility expertise has gained Kubik recognition and respect throughout



Western Pennsylvania, she also has many creative talents beyond the medical field. In addition to being an avid oboe player, Kubik is also a member of the bell choir and gospel choir at the Garden City United Methodist Church in Monroeville.

Kubik recalls her lifelong affinity with, connection to, and challenge of playing the oboe. “I began playing the oboe in sixth grade and played throughout high school and college, but didn't really pick it up again until four years ago (after over 35 years). I always enjoyed playing, but the oboe is not really an instrument like a piano or guitar that lends itself to playing all alone.”

Following college, Kubik found that she didn't have time to practice playing, first because of her professional training, and then because of her family obligations. She explains how she reconnected with the oboe later in life. “All of a sudden, when our youngest son went off to college, I had a lot more free time. But because I hadn't played in such a long

time, I contacted the Duquesne University School of Music to take some refresher lessons.” That is where Kubik said she was very lucky to be assigned to James Gorton, the co-principal oboist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. “He not only got me on track with technique and moving away from sounding like a squawking duck, but he was also able to connect me with several performing groups.”

Not wanting to lose this resurgence of her artistic outlet, Kubik has continued to study with Gorton. Plus, she currently plays with the Pittsburgh Philharmonic Orchestra and a double woodwind quintet composed mostly of musicians from the North Suburban Symphonic Band. “I'm also part of a duet with another oboist that I met when performing with a group called ‘Dueling Donax.’ In addition, I frequently play with the chancel choir at my church,” she adds.

Kubik believes that she is drawn to playing music and the oboe because it is something that is a very personally rewarding experience for her. “Playing the oboe, performing with various groups, and singing are things that I do solely for myself. I really enjoy the practice of medicine, but for me, playing music and listening to music are very relaxing and exercises the other side of my brain.”

Although she never perhaps considered a career in musical performance, Kubik looks forward to future years where she can play the oboe and make music even more. “It's something that I can continue to do after I retire from medicine (which probably won't be for a long time). Plus, scientific evidence has even proved that continued learning throughout life diminishes the effects of aging on brain function. Just like your body, you have to exercise your brain. Use it or lose it!”

For more information on Reproductive Health Specialists, please visit: [www.ivfpittsburgh.com](http://www.ivfpittsburgh.com). †

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