



MusicSmiths Flute Studio

August/September 2023 Flute Notes



Volume 5 | Issue No. 1 | MusicSmiths Flute Studio

Fall In!

Welcome back! I don't know about you, but my fall calendar is already jam-packed with concerts! The Olathe Community Orchestra is performing *four* concerts this fall, starting with Old Settlers on September 8th; see Coming Events on page 3 for info. Fall is also audition season: Sousa Honor Band auditions in October; ECKMEA District Band auditions take place November 4th. With auditions and other band events in the works this fall, I thought it would be helpful to rerun my practicing tips to help my students prepare (page 2). Speaking of practicing, are you prepared for your lessons? Take a look at the checklist on p. 3 to assist with making the most of your lessons. Lots going on this fall – get excited! Happy Fall!

Emily

Inside This Issue

PG. 2

Let's Talk About Practicing
Keeping Your Flute Clean and Safe
Practice Session: Tools of the Trade

PG. 3

Fall Flute Events
Coming Events: OCO Concert
Are You Prepared for Your Lessons?

PG. 4

Meet the Double Contrabass Flute!
September Schedule Notes
Contact Information
Composer of the Month

Let's Talk About Practicing . . .

Fall is a busy time for students. Classes, extracurricular activities, and yes, homework, compete for practice time on your flute. So how can you make the most of your limited practice time? Here are some tips:

1) Take a few minutes to warm up.

Playing long tones and a few scales help to get you limber so you can get the most out of your practice.

2) Target your practice session on difficult passages.

3) Use a metronome.

Set the metronome at a tempo at which you can play your passage cleanly and evenly. Gradually increase the tempo as you get accustomed to the pattern. Be meticulous about counting – write in the beats if needed.

4) Change articulation and/or rhythm patterns in fast passages. While your brain is concentrating on the new articulation or rhythm, you are also training your fingers to learn the pattern through repetition. Genius, no?

5) If you miss a note in the key or an accidental more than once, write it in! Continuing to make the same mistake ensures you will learn it that way, and it won't be corrected.

6) Learn to recognize patterns by practicing scales.

Music is full of patterns: scales, scales in 3rds, octaves, chromatic scales, arpeggios. This is why we practice etudes. Learn to apply the patterns from your etudes to your band music or solo repertoire.



Students: *Do you have a mobile phone? I've found that texting is the fastest way to reach my students – and for you to reach me! Please make sure I have your cell number in case we need to make last-minute changes to your lesson time!*



Keeping Your Flute Clean and Safe

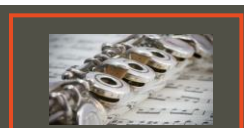
As you head back to school this fall, please pay close attention to how you handle – and clean – your flute to keep it in good playing condition. Some tips:

- 1) **Do not share your flute. Period.**
- 2) **Swab each section of the flute EVERY time after you play. Use a soft, clean cloth with the cleaning rod (do NOT use a pad saver). Wash your cleaning cloth once a week.**
- 3) **Use an isopropyl alcohol swab to wipe off the lip plate and keys.**
- 4) **When assembling your flute, ALWAYS handle it where there are no keys to prevent bending keys and rods. Carefully insert the tenons on the headjoint and footjoint straight into the body, not at an angle, then twist into place.**

Practice Session: Tools of the Trade

Productive practicing requires more than your flute and music! Here are a few items every musician should have at hand:

- 1) **Metronome & Tuner** – Download a free metronome/tuner app on your phone.
- 2) **Music stand** – Invest in an adjustable music stand; don't bend over a desk or bed!
- 3) **Earplugs** – Essential for piccolo players!
- 4) **Recording device** – Use your phone's audio recorder to record your session.



Fall Flute Events

Kansas Flute Society

Fall Flute Festival

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Tabor College

Hillsboro, KS

1:30 pm registration, 2:00-6:00 pm

<https://www.ksflute.org/>

John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band 2023-2024

Audition recordings due by October 20th.

<https://ks-sousahonorband.org/>

ECKMEA HS District Honor Band Auditions

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Gardner-Edgerton High School

Audition info/excerpts:

<https://ksmea.org/hsband/excerpts/>

Note: KMEA has made more corrections to the errors in some of the excerpts! Most notable – the chromatic scale now includes high Bb. Please take a look (see link above) and print out the corrected pages. I will also print out a few sets to make available to my students.



“All the time I was playing the flute, the lines, the solos, the riffs, the construction, were based on my guitar skills. I did not play the flute to exploit its natural faculties, but I used it as a surrogate guitar.”

Ian Anderson, leader of rock band Jethro Tull

Coming Events

Olathe Community Orchestra at Old Settlers “Festival Pops”

Friday, September 8, 2023

6:00-7:00 pm

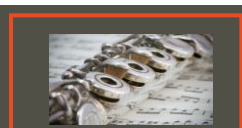
Program: *London Again* by Coates; Offenbach’s Overture from *Orpheus*; *The American Frontier*, arr. Calvin Custer

<https://www.olatheorchestra.org/>



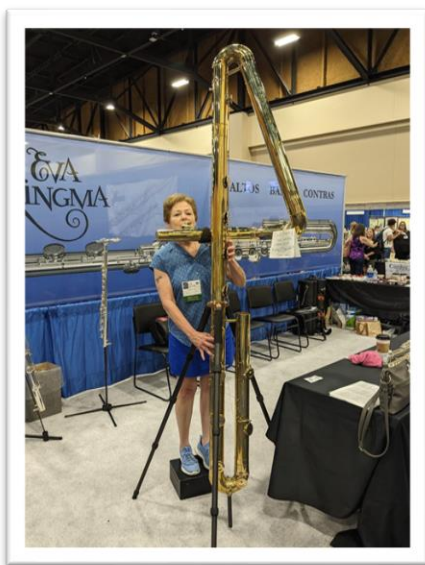
Are You Prepared for Your Lesson? Read on for Some Helpful Hints . . .

- 1) Have your flute assembled and all lesson materials ready to go at your lesson time.
- 2) Bring a notebook and pencil so you can jot down assignments or notes for your next lesson.
- 3) If your lesson is online, make sure your camera and mic are in good working order and turned on. Set your music on a music stand. Position yourself so you can see the stand but are also visible on camera (experiment with different configurations).
- 4) Bring any band music, playing test music, or audition music you want to work on; if possible, let me know ahead of time so we can make sure to dedicate enough time to working on it.
- 5) Practice! Even a few minutes a day is better than nothing. Don’t want to repeat that etude another week? **Practice! See p. 2 for tips.**



Meet the Double Contrabass Flute!

Each August, the National Flute Association holds its annual convention. This year, flutists from around the world convened in Phoenix, AZ. One of the most popular exhibits was the double contrabass flute at the Eva Kingma booth in the Exhibit Hall. My friend, Lisa Phillips, attended the convention and posed with the flute. Notice she had to stand on a platform to reach the lip plate! It contains 18 ft of tubing and sounds three octaves lower than the C flute. It has a relatively powerful tone. Purchase price: \$30,000 and up.



Lisa Phillips tries out the double contrabass flute at the 2023 NFA Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

September Schedule Notes

♪ **Sept 4, Labor Day – regular lesson schedule. Let me know if you have to miss so we can schedule a make-up**

Please note: My policy is to make up missed lessons if I receive advance notice. No-shows will not be made up.



André Jolivet

b. August 8, 1905

d. December 20, 1974

French composer André Jolivet drew on his interest in acoustics and atonality as well as both ancient and modern music in his compositions. A student of Edgar Varèse, he was also influenced by the atonal music of Arnold Schoenberg. In 1936, Jolivet co-founded Le Jeune France, along with Olivier Messiaen, Yves Daniel-Lesur, and Yves Baudrier. Jolivet wrote for a wide variety of genres: orchestral music, ballets, opera, and musical theatre. His chamber music includes *Concerto for Flute & Strings* (1949), *Concerto for Flute & Percussion* (1965), *Sonata for Flute*, *Sonatine for Flute & Piano* (1961), *Cinq Incantations for Flute* (1936), as well as various works for flute and other instruments.



Emily Smith
1454 W. Prairie Terrace, Olathe, KS 66061



esmithflute@gmail.com



913-909-3025



www.musicsmithsflutestudio.com
<https://www.facebook.com/musicsmithsflutestudio/>

