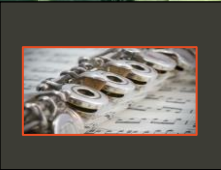




MusicSmiths Flute Studio

August/September 2024 Flute Notes



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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 *three* concerts this fall, starting with Old Settlers on September 6th; see Coming Events on p. 3 for info. Fall is also audition season: Sousa Honor Band auditions are coming up in October. ECKMEA District Band auditions take place November 9th; I encourage my high school students to attend the *Jump Start to All-State* clinic on August 17th. See p. 3 for details. 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 (p. 2). Speaking of practicing, are you prepared for your lessons? Take a look at the checklist on p. 2 to assist with making the most of your lessons. Lots going on this fall – get excited! Happy Fall!

Emily

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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!



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

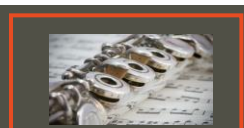
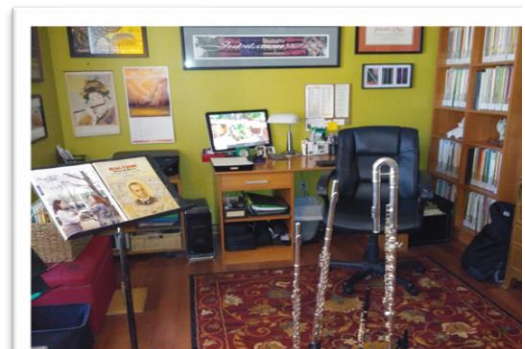
- 1) Have your flute assembled and all lesson materials ready to go at your lesson time.
- 2) Bring a notebook and pencil so you can jot down assignments or notes for your next lesson.
- 3) Bring any band music, playing test music, or audition music you want to work on; if possible, let me know ahead of time so we can make sure to dedicate enough time to working on it.
- 4) Practice! Even a few minutes a day is better than nothing. Don't want to repeat that etude another week? **PRACTICE!**



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

KCFA Jump Start to All-State Clinic

Dr. Daniel Velasco, KU Flute Professor

Saturday, August 17, 2024

1:00-2:30 pm

Leawood United Methodist Church

2915 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS 66206

Free for KCFA members; non-member fee \$10

<https://kcfa.wildapricot.org/event-5788527>

John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band 2024-2025

January 24-25, 2025

Lied Center on the University of Kansas campus

Audition recordings due by October 18th.

<https://ks-sousahonorband.org/how-to-apply/>

ECKMEA HS District Honor Band Auditions

Saturday, November 9, 2024

Gardner-Edgerton High School

Audition info/excerpts:

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



“The quickest way to unlock your talent is to take the flute out of the box.”

Sir James Galway, international flute virtuoso and recording artist



Coming Events

Olathe Community Orchestra at Old Settlers

Friday, September 6, 2024

6:00-7:00 pm

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

Olathe Community Orchestra

Olathe Arts Festival

Saturday, September 23, 2024

10:30 am

Johnson County Square in Downtown Olathe

Free admission

For more information:

<https://www.olatheks.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/olathe-arts-festival>



Featured Event:

Jump Start to All-State Clinic

With Dr. Daniel Velasco

Sponsored by the Kansas City Flute Association

Saturday, August 17, 2024

1:00-2:30 pm

Leawood United Methodist Church

9515 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS 66206

Free to KCFA members; non-members \$10

Dr. Velasco, flute professor at KU, will lead a clinic for high school students auditioning for District Honor Band this fall. For more information and to register:

information and to register:

information and to register:

<https://kcfa.wildapricot.org/event-5788527>



Sign Up for Fall Lessons!

If you haven't signed up for fall lessons yet, don't wait too long! Times are filling up. I offer weekly 30-minute and 45-minute lessons through the school year. The lesson fee is a flat rate of \$110 per month for weekly 30-minute lessons; \$150 per month for weekly 45-minute lessons. 45-minute lessons are recommended for advanced students; 30-minute lessons are recommended for beginners through 7th/8th grade. As of now, all Monday times are filled, but there are still plenty of times available the rest of the week. If you have a friend who is considering taking private lessons this year, please feel free to give them my contact information!



September Schedule Notes

♪ *Sept 2, Labor Day – No lessons*

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



Jacques Ibert

b. August 15, 1890

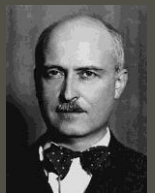
d. February 5, 1962

French composer and pianist

Jacques Ibert studied at the Paris Conservatory, where he won its top prize the Prix du Rome, on his

first attempt. Following his service during World War I, Ibert

embarked on a career as a composer. His output includes seven operas, five ballets, incidental music for plays and film, choral works, chamber music, and works for solo instruments. During WWII, Ibert's music was banned by the Vichy government, which was allied with Nazi Germany. Ibert was forced into exile and was readmitted to France's musical life near the end of the war. His best-known flute works include *Jeux Sonatine for flute and piano* (1923), *Aria for flute and piano* (1927), the *Flute Concerto* (1934), and *Piece for flute solo* (1936).



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