



*MusicSmiths Flute Studio*

# August/September 2022 Flute Notes



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## *Fall In!*

Welcome back! I'm so looking forward to a "normal" school year! I'm pleased to see that annual Fall music events, i.e. District Band auditions, will return to traditional procedures. In fact, there are two upcoming District/All-State Audition workshops coming up soon that I encourage my students to attend; see "Fall Flute Events" on page 3 for details. I'm also excited about starting the 38<sup>th</sup> season of the Olathe Community Orchestra – we'll be performing four concerts this year, no masks required! Our first one is October 2<sup>nd</sup>; see Coming Events on page 3 for info. 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). Also, if anyone is interested in joining the Olathe Youth Symphony, they still have openings – even for flutes! See page 2 for contact info. 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 insures 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!*



## Olathe Youth Symphony Seeking Flutes for 2022-23 Season

The Olathe Youth Symphony announces openings in several wind sections, including flutes! The Olathe Youth Symphony is comprised of two groups:

**Symphony:** Advanced students grades 9 through 12

**Philharmonic:** Intermediate students grades 6 through 9

Both groups rehearse on Monday nights, 6:00-8:00 pm at Olathe South High School. If interested, email: [olatheyouthsymphony@gmail.com](mailto:olatheyouthsymphony@gmail.com)

For more information, go to the website: <https://olatheyouthsymphony.org/auditions>

### **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 City Flute Association

Jump Start to All-State with Dr. Daniel Velasco

Saturday, August 27, 2022

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Southminster Presbyterian Church

6306 Roe Avenue

Prairie Village, KS 66208

Are you preparing for the Kansas All-State audition? Are you a teacher looking for fresh ideas on how to teach this year's music? Join us on Saturday, August 27th for a workshop with KU Flute Professor, Dr. Daniel Velasco!

To register: <https://kcfa.wildapricot.org/event-4912825>

### Kansas Flute Society

Fall Flute Festival

Sunday, October 2, 2022

Emporia State University

1:30 pm registration, 2:00-5:00 pm

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

### John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band 2022-2023

Audition recordings due by October 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

### ECKMEA HS District Honor Band Auditions

Saturday, November 5, 2022

Gardner-Edgerton High School



"The best part of making music, for me, is collaborating and working with new people and fresh sounds and all those things that get people excited to continue in this business that we all love so much."

--*Mariah Carey*

## Coming Events

### Olathe Community Orchestra Concert: Fall Classics

Sunday, October 2, 2022

3:00 pm

Grace United Methodist Church

11485 S. Ridgeview Road, Olathe, KS 66061

Admission free

The OCO kicks off its 38<sup>th</sup> season with a concert of crowd pleasing works by Borodin, Brahms, Shostakovich, and Weber, plus highlights from "Wicked."

<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 Our New Cat!

Some of our students noticed signs of a cat in the house this summer – cat toys, fur balls on the rugs, and sometimes even a glimpse of the kitty as she dived under the sofa. Yes, we do have a cat! We adopted Maya a few months ago after seeing a friend’s posting on Facebook looking for a home for her. She’s semi-feral, having lived mostly outside until we took her in. She hides out during the day and only recently has begun to show herself at night. She still won’t let us come close to her, but she’s come a long way from the first few weeks when she spent most of her time cowering under the sofa. We’ve been told it could take months (years?) before she feels comfortable enough to interact with us. But we’re patient. She’s real sweet, and, as you can see in the photo below, a beautiful cat!



## September Schedule Notes

♪ **No lesson Monday, 9/5/22**  
**(Labor Day)**

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



## Composer of the Month

Nadia Boulanger

b. September 16, 1887

d. October 22, 1979

French composition teacher, composer, pianist, and organist Nadia Boulanger is best known as the teacher of many of the most celebrated composers of the 20<sup>th</sup>

century: Aaron Copland, Elliott Carter, Philip Glass, Astor Piazzolla, Roy Harris, Quincy Jones, Virgil Thompson, and Burt Bacharach, to name a few. She was the first woman to conduct major orchestras in the U.S. and Europe, i.e. the BBC Symphony, Boston Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. She conducted several world premieres, including works by Copland and Stravinsky. Her influence reaches into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the works of contemporary composers, many of them women, who studied with her students. She is an inspiration to generations of female musicians.



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