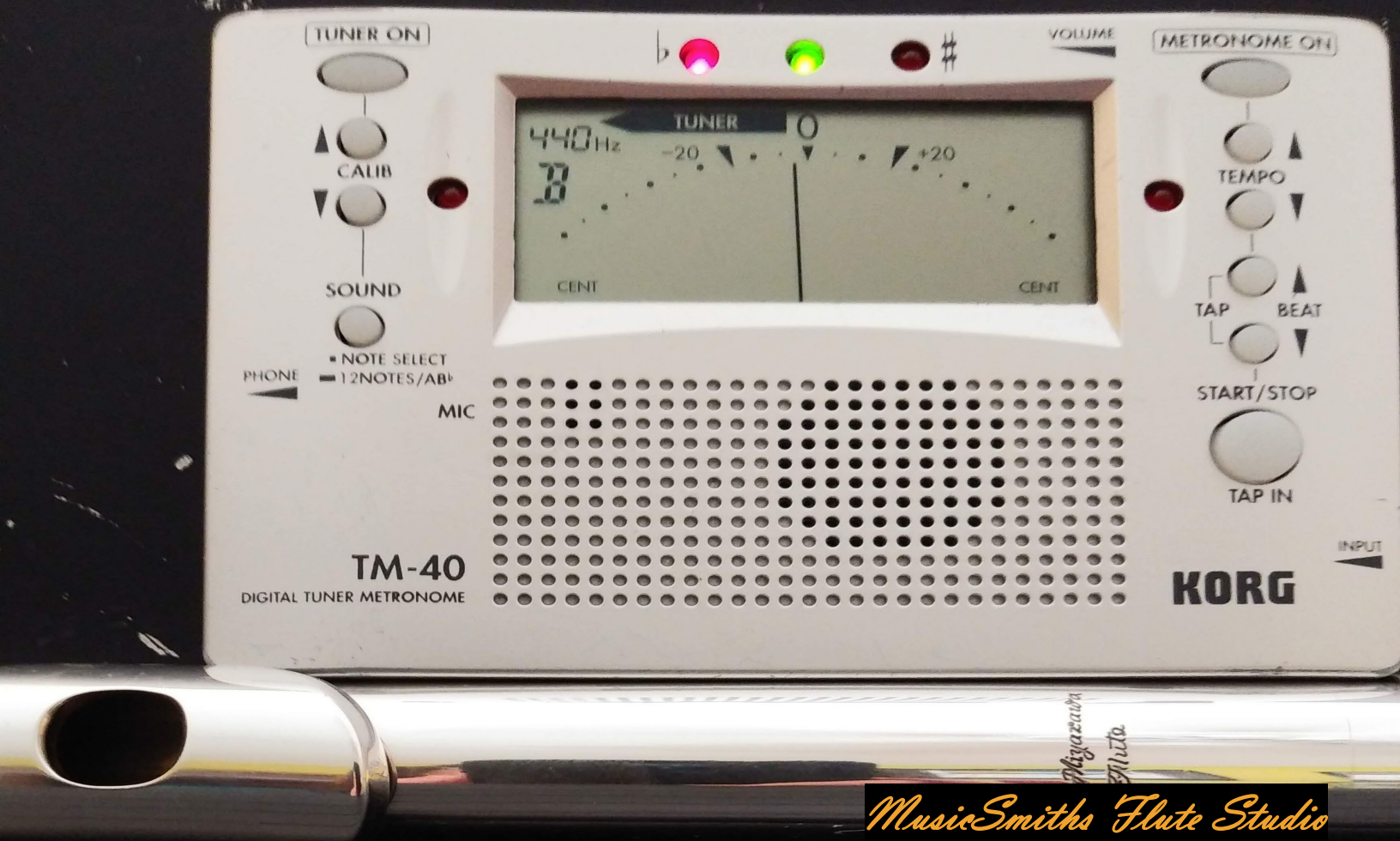




August/September 2026 Flute Notes

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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 *four* concerts this fall, starting with Old Settlers on September 11th; see Coming Events on p. 3 for info. Fall is also audition season: Sousa Honor Band auditions in October; ECKMEA District Band auditions take place November 7th. The Olathe Youth Symphony is accepting late auditions for this season! 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 helps 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 pencil so you can jot down assignments or notes for your next lesson.

Optional: if you wish to bring a notebook to jot down assignments, feel free to do so!

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

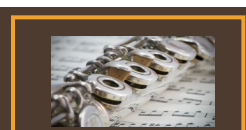
Productive practicing requires more than your flute and music! Here are a few items every musician should have at hand:

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 for Students

KS Sousa Band Clinic

Sunday, September 27, 2026

2:00-3:15 pm

MidAmerica Nazarene University

2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS 66062

The MNU music faculty will hold its annual Sousa Band Audition Clinic this fall. Dr. Gina Hart-Kemper is the flute clinician. More information will be available soon! Check the [MNU Band Facebook](#) page for updates.

ECKMEA All-District Audition Clinic

Sunday, October 11, 2026

2:00-3:15 pm

MidAmerica Nazarene University

2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS 66062

The MNU music faculty will hold its annual All-District Audition Clinic this fall. Dr. Gina Hart-Kemper is the flute clinician. More information will be available soon! Check the [MNU Band Facebook](#) page for updates.

John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band 2026-2027

Audition recordings are due by October 17th.

[KS Sousa Honor Band Audition Information](#)

ECKMEA HS District Honor Band Auditions

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Shawnee Mission North High School

[KMEA Audition Info & Excerpts](#)



News regarding Doctor Note Instrument Repair:

As of August 1, 2026, Doctor Note, 7385 W. 97th Street, Overland Park, KS, is under new management. Former owner Harold Steinhardt has retired; the new owner is Matt Purcell, a woodwind repair specialist. To schedule an appointment: [Online scheduler for Doctor Note in Overland Park, KS](#)

Coming Events

Olathe Community Orchestra at Old Settlers "USA 250"

Friday, September 11, 2026

6:00-7:00 pm

Johnson County Square, Downtown Olathe
Program: *Red, White, and Blue; Armed Forces Salute; Star-Spangled Spectacular; Stars & Stripes Forever, and more!*

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



Olathe Youth Symphony Auditions

There's still time to audition for the Olathe Youth Symphony's 2026-27 season! See information below:

**OYS 2026-27 Concert Season Audition
Registration Now Open! To inquire about
open positions and/or request a late
audition, please email:**

[**olatheyouthsymphony@gmail.com.**](mailto:olatheyouthsymphony@gmail.com)

**For more information about the Olathe
Youth Symphony, visit their website:**

[**Olathe Youth Symphony**](#)



Kansas City Jazz

Kansas City has been known for its unique style of jazz music since the 1920's. Fueled by the Great Migration in the early 20th century, Kansas City became a destination for people from all over the country, especially from the South. Kansas City offered plentiful jobs and a vibrant nightlife, attracting musicians looking for steady work. Led by pianist **Bennie Moten** and pianist/composer **Count Basie**, KC became known for a more blues-influenced style based around the 12-bar blues structure, extended soloing, and elaborate riffing by different sections of the band.

Some of the most influential musicians in jazz history got their start in KC. Besides Moten and Basie, notable Kansas City jazz greats include **Harlan Leonard**, **Lester Young**, **Mary Lou Williams**, **Claude "Fiddler" Williams**, **Jay McShann**, **Pat Metheny**, and of course, **Charlie Parker**.

Kansas City's jazz legacy is alive and well in local clubs, such as The Majestic, The Blue Room, the Phoenix, and the Green Lady Lounge. The American Jazz Museum at 18th & Vine, KCMO, preserves Kansas City's jazz legacy.



No Kansas City jazz musician has been more influential than Charlie "Bird" Parker (1920-1955). He is best known for bebop, a jazz style distinguished by fast tempos, virtuosic technique, and advanced harmonies. Parker's legacy continues to inspire young musicians.

Aug/Sept Schedule Notes

- ♪ **Aug 2 – 9 – No Lessons**
- ♪ **Aug 10: Fall Lessons Begin**
- ♪ **Sept 7, 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.



Composer of the Month

George Gershwin

b. September 26, 1898

d. July 11, 1937

American composer and pianist George Gershwin's music spanned jazz, classical, and popular music. An original Tin Pan Alley composer, Gershwin's songs "Swanee," "I Got Rhythm," and "Embraceable You," were early successes. His first major work, *Rhapsody in Blue* for piano and orchestra, became standard piano and orchestral repertoire. His opera, *Porgy and Bess*, is considered a great American classic. Gershwin and his brother, lyricist Ira Gershwin, wrote songs for 13 musicals, 3 films, and several revues; many of them are considered jazz standards. In 2007, the Library of Congress created the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song to honor lifetime contributions to popular music.



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