



October 2025 Flute Notes

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MusicSmiths Flute Studio



Fall Crunch Time!

It's crunch time – the auditions many of my students have been working toward for the past month are coming up fast! This month, we'll be putting the finishing touches on the audition music. Sousa Band auditionees – your recorded audition must be submitted by **October 17th**. Check with your band director on when and how to submit your recording. For helpful hints, see p. 2. District Band auditions are **November 8th**! I'll walk you through the process with a *Mock Audition* exercise during your last lesson before the audition date. Also, see pg. 3 for upcoming "Fall Flute Events" and Olathe Community Orchestra concert information. Happy October!



Emily



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Annual Fall Auditions Guide: Recording Your Sousa Band Audition



If it's fall, it must be audition season! Whether you're trying out for ECKMEA District Honor Band or the KS Sousa Honor Band, now is the time to start preparing! The Sousa Band requires recorded auditions – they are coming up sooner than you think! Here are a few tips for preparing and recording your audition:

- 1) **Know your music!** Do the work well ahead of time – a recording session is not the time to practice!
- 2) **Warm up** well before you record. Never record on cold instruments.
- 3) **Play through your pieces** at least once before you turn on the recorder. Then, do a “trial” recording. Listen to the trial run and adjust the microphone as necessary for better balance or to minimize distortion.
- 4) **Recording:** Turn on the recording device; take a relaxed, deep breath before you play. Play as if you are playing for a live audience – if you make a mistake, keep going. Record two takes and submit the best one.

Recording the Audition

***Scales:** This is the longest part of the audition. Be well prepared! If you keep missing a note, write it in. Know which key is coming up next. Take a good breath between scale sections; play as evenly and musically as you can. If you play a wrong note, don't go back -- keep going! Be sure to record a second take for backup.

***March excerpt:** Be well prepared – know the notes and rhythms. Play at the fastest tempo in which you can play cleanly and evenly. Exaggerate dynamics and accents. Be sure to record a second take for backup.

***Be sure to follow instructions for submitting the recording!**

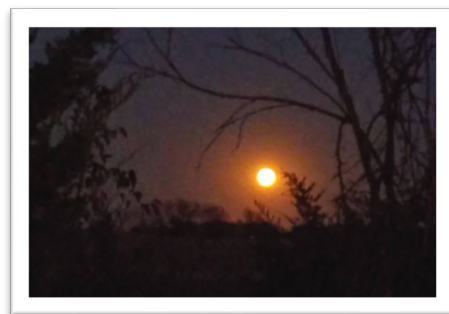
The 2025 Kansas Sousa Honor Band will take place **January 23-24, 2026**, at the Lied Center in Lawrence, KS. **The deadline for submissions is October 17, 2025.** For more information: <https://ks-sousahonorband.org/>



Scared of Sightreading? Brush Up Your Skills!

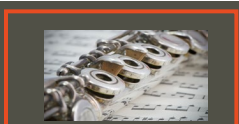
Do you find sightreading scary? It doesn't have to be! As my jr. high band director always told us, the best way to learn to sightread is to **do it!** District Band auditions **will** include sightreading! Here are some tips to help strengthen your sight-reading skills:

- 1) Go to **[Flutetunes.com](https://www.flutetunes.com)** -- click “Random Tune.”
- 2) Take a few seconds to look at the key signature, time signature, and tempo.
- 3) Pay close attention to rhythm patterns and accidentals.
- 4) Play the tune!
- 5) Click on the MP3 audio track; check yourself. Did you play it correctly? What corrections can you make to play it more accurately? Do this exercise once a day – you'll be amazed at how much improved your sightreading will be! See? Not so scary after all!



“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 of Jethro Tull



Fall Flute Events

Kansas Flute Society

Fall Flute Festival

Sunday, October 12, 2025

2:00-6:00 pm; check-in/registration 1:30 pm

Beach Music Hall

1 Kellogg Circle

Emporia State University

Emporia, KS 66801

Information: [KFS Fall Festival](#)

MidAmerica Nazarene University

Kansas District Audition Masterclass

Sunday, October 26, 2025

2:00-3:15 pm

Bell Center, MNU Campus, Olathe, KS

Cost: \$10

Deadline to register: Monday, October 20, 2025

For information and to register:

[KS High School District Audition Clinic](#)

Kansas City Flute Choir

Halloween Concert

Sunday, October 19, 2025

2:00 pm

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

7851 West 119th Street

Overland Park, KS 66213

Admission free; donations welcome



Coming Events

Olathe Community Orchestra at Olathe Arts Festival

Saturday, October 11, 2025

10:00 & 10:30 am

Johnson County Square, downtown Olathe

Free and open to the public

Program: "Square Dance" – music by Leroy Anderson, Antonin Dvorak, Amilcare Ponchielli, and Richard Strauss. For more information:

[Olathe Community Orchestra](#)

KS John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band

Audition recordings are due October 17, 2025

[KS Sousa Honor Band Audition Info](#)



Coming Soon:

District Band Mock Audition!

District Auditions are "blind" – that is, the judges are behind a screen. At your last lesson before the audition date, I'll walk you through the process with a mock audition, simulating the experience. All month, we'll practice sightreading. For sightreading practice at home, check out my sightreading practice tips on p. 2.

Don't forget to practice your scales, too!



Fixes for “Marching Flute” Syndrome

Many of my students’ flutes are showing the tell-tale signs of “marching band syndrome” – leaks, torn pads, loose screws, bent springs, and sometimes, bent keys and dents. Playing outdoors in the elements, not to mention the dust kicked up during marching practice, can be hard on delicate woodwind instruments. This is why I urge my students to keep their beginner flutes for marching band. Please don’t take your (more expensive) step-up flute out on the marching field! Still, even the hardiest of beginner flutes take a beating outside. Don’t wait to get problems fixed; they only get worse over time. In the meantime, you can prevent many problems by doing some simple flute care: 1) Take time to thoroughly swab out your flute every time after you play. 2) Always store your flute in its case when you are not playing it. 3) When a problem does arise, take it to a flute repair technician as soon as possible for repairs. The smaller the issue, the sooner (and cheaper) the flute will be fixed.



October Lesson Schedule

♪ ***If you will be gone during conference days, please contact me to schedule a make-up lesson***

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



Composer of the Month

Gary Schocker
b. October 18, 1959



American flutist, pianist, and most-published living composer of flute music, with over 200 works in print, including numerous flute solos, duos, and trios, as well as his 3-movement flute concerto, *Green Places*. He won the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition in 1978, the New York Flute Club's Young Artist Competition in 1980, and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in 1985. He has toured and taught in Colombia, Panama, Canada, Australia, Taiwan, Japan, Germany, France, and Italy. Besides flute, he has composed works for many other instruments. He has also written two musicals: *Far from the Madding Crowd* and *The Awakening*.



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