

January 2026

Flute Notes

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MusicSmiths Flute Studio



Winter Warmup: Festival Issue

Welcome back from a much-deserved holiday break! I feel like we always hit the ground running in January. This is the month to start preparing for college auditions and spring music festivals. Solo/ensemble festivals are just around the corner –this month we'll start working on solos. See p. 2 for tips on choosing a solo and sources to purchase music. Check the Calendar of Events (p. 3) and be sure to put the festival dates on your calendar. January is also cold & flu season. If you are sick, we can reschedule. I'm looking forward to seeing you all this month!

Happy New Year!

Emily

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Solo/Ensemble Time!

It's that time of year! KSHSAA Solo/Ensemble festivals are coming up soon – time to choose a solo and/or small ensemble piece! Kansas Regional Solo/Ensemble Festival is *Saturday, April 11th^h*; State is *Saturday, April 25th^h*. The festivals will be live, in-person events this spring, which means you will need to secure an accompanist soon. I'll be happy to give you a list of local accompanists. Don't wait – accompanists' schedules fill up fast! The most important task this month is to decide on a solo. To streamline the process, here are a few things to keep in mind:

***Choose a solo that's a challenge but emphasizes your strengths, not your weaknesses.** For example, if fast finger work isn't your strong suit, don't choose a solo with lots of fast runs. Note: You will need to purchase an original copy of your solo for the performance. You will also need an original copy for the adjudicator. I usually lend out my own original copies to my students for adjudication, so you won't have to purchase two copies. Just be sure to return my copies to me!

***Pay close attention to the piano accompaniment, and don't wait to hire an accompanist!** A good accompanist is crucial to a good contest experience. Ask me for contacts!

***When choosing a flute trio or quartet, consider the strengths of each member of the group and assign parts accordingly.** Be realistic about the instrumentation: it's much easier to find music for three flutes than a flute, sax, and bassoon combo. If you need music, I have several contest-worthy trios and quartets I can lend out – just ask! Commit to a regular practice time with the group. Too often, small ensembles sound “thrown together,” and the rating tends to reflect the lack of rehearsal time. Whether it's a solo or ensemble, strive for a *polished* performance.

***Choose a piece you like!** The contest experience should be fun – pick a piece you enjoy!

Middle School Solo/Ensemble Festivals

Typically, area middle school solo/ensemble festivals are scheduled in early March or right after Spring Break. Check with your band director regarding dates and times. We will need to start working on a solo or ensemble piece this month to have it ready to perform in March.

Standard Audition Repertoire

Most college music program audition requirements include major & minor scales, full range chromatic scale, and sight reading, as well as two contrasting selections from the standard flute repertoire, as follows:

***1-2 movts. of a Baroque sonata** (Ex.: Bach, Handel, Quantz, Telemann, Vivaldi)

Mozart concertos or *Andante in C Major

***French Conservatory piece** (*Flute Music by French Composers*, pub. Schirmer)

***20th or 21st century piece** (Ex.: Debussy *Syrinx*; sonatas -- Bloch, Liebermann, Martinu, Poulenc, Prokofiev, etc.)

***Etudes or other technical study** (Ex.: *Selected Studies for Flute* by Voxman, pub. Rubank)

Check the college music department's website for audition and repertoire information.



Sources for Online Music Purchases

I recommend ordering music from the following online stores:

Sheet Music Plus

Pro tip: To save on shipping costs, choose “Budget Delivery” on the shipping page – flat fee of \$5.95; usually arrives in 1-2 weeks.

Flute World

Pro tip: Enter the title and composer in the search field to save having to wade through all the flute music pages, which can sometimes be confusing.

J.W. Pepper

Pro tip: Inventory is listed in alphabetical order by title, so know what title you are looking for!

Carolyn Nussbaum Music

Pro tip: As with Flute World, the search field is the best place to start save time!



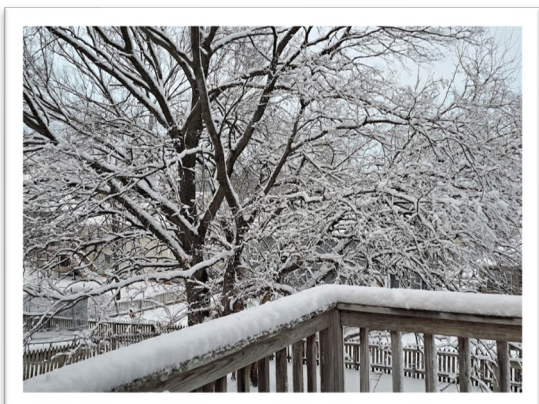
Lesson Scheduling and Cancellation

The new year is a good time to review my policies regarding cancelling and rescheduling lessons. Illness and inclement weather are the primary causes for canceling lessons in the winter. If you need to cancel due to illness or bad weather, let me know as soon as possible so we can reschedule. I'll do the same. If you need to reschedule due to another scheduled activity, i.e. sports, pep band, rehearsal, etc., please let me know a week in advance so we can schedule a different time.

Note: If there is no school due to a holiday (MLK Day), parent-teacher conferences, or staff development, lessons are still scheduled as usual. However, we can always move your lesson earlier in the day. If you need to reschedule, please let me know in advance.

Need to Make a Change in Your Lesson Time?

Do you need to change your lesson time to work around sports or other activities this spring? Let me know ASAP so we can make a change. Also, if you're interested in extending your lesson time from 30 minutes to 45 minutes, I have a few open slots that will accommodate the extra time. Let me know!



Calendar of Events

KSMEA State Honor Band Auditions

January 17, 2026 (Weather Contingency date 1/24/26)

Salina-South High School

Salina, KS

For more information: [KMEA All-State Auditions](#)

Kansas John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band

January 23-24, 2026

Lied Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

For more information: [KS Sousa Honor Band](#)

Kansas Flute Society Winter Flute Forum

Sunday, February 1, 2026

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Online Virtual Event

For information/registration: [KFS Virtual Event](#)

Spring Music Festival Dates/Venues

Regional Solo & Ensemble Festivals

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Mill Valley HS, 5900 Monticello Rd, De Soto, KS

- Spring Hill HS

Olathe South HS, 1640 E. 151st St, Olathe, KS

- Olathe, Blue Valley, & Shawnee Mission high schools

Shawnee Heights HS, 4201 SE Shawnee Heights Rd,
Tecumseh, KS

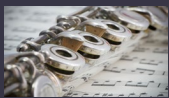
- Gardner-Edgerton HS

State Solo & Ensemble Festivals

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Class 6A – Washburn Rural HS, Topeka, KS

Class 5A – Salina-South HS, Salina, KS





Quantz and Frederick the Great

One of the most important figures in world history, Frederick II the Great of Prussia (Jan 24, 1712-Aug 17, 1786), was a flutist and composer. Known as “The Enlightenment King,” Frederick was a lifelong patron of the arts. As king, he encouraged education among his subjects and enacted many social reforms, including freedom of speech in the press and in literature. In his *Political Testament*, he wrote that the sovereign was the first servant of the state. An avid flutist, Frederick studied with renowned flutist and composer Johann Quantz in his youth. When he became king, he hired Quantz to be his court composer. Quantz and Frederick performed frequent concerts at court, often accompanied by influential musicians of the day. The painting above depicts Frederick playing the flute while C.P.E. Bach accompanies him on harpsichord, Quantz leans against the wall at the right. It was a partnership that produced hundreds of pieces for the flute, many of which are still popular today.



January Lesson Schedule

- ♪ Tue. 1/45/26 – Lessons resume
- ♪ Mon. 1/19/26 – MLK Day; no school, lessons scheduled as usual.

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



Composer of the Month

Johann Joachim Quantz

b. January 30, 1697

d. July 12, 1773

German composer, flutist, and flute maker, Johann Quantz spent much of his career as flute teacher and court composer to Frederick the Great, King of Prussia. He wrote

hundreds of flute concertos, sonatas, and small ensembles. He also wrote *On Playing the Flute*, an influential treatise on flute pedagogy and Baroque ornamentation. The premier flute soloist of his day, Quantz toured Europe, making acquaintances with influential composers such as C.P.E. Bach, Haydn, Mozart, and Scarlatti, as well as flutist Michel Blavet. He was also an innovator in flute design.



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