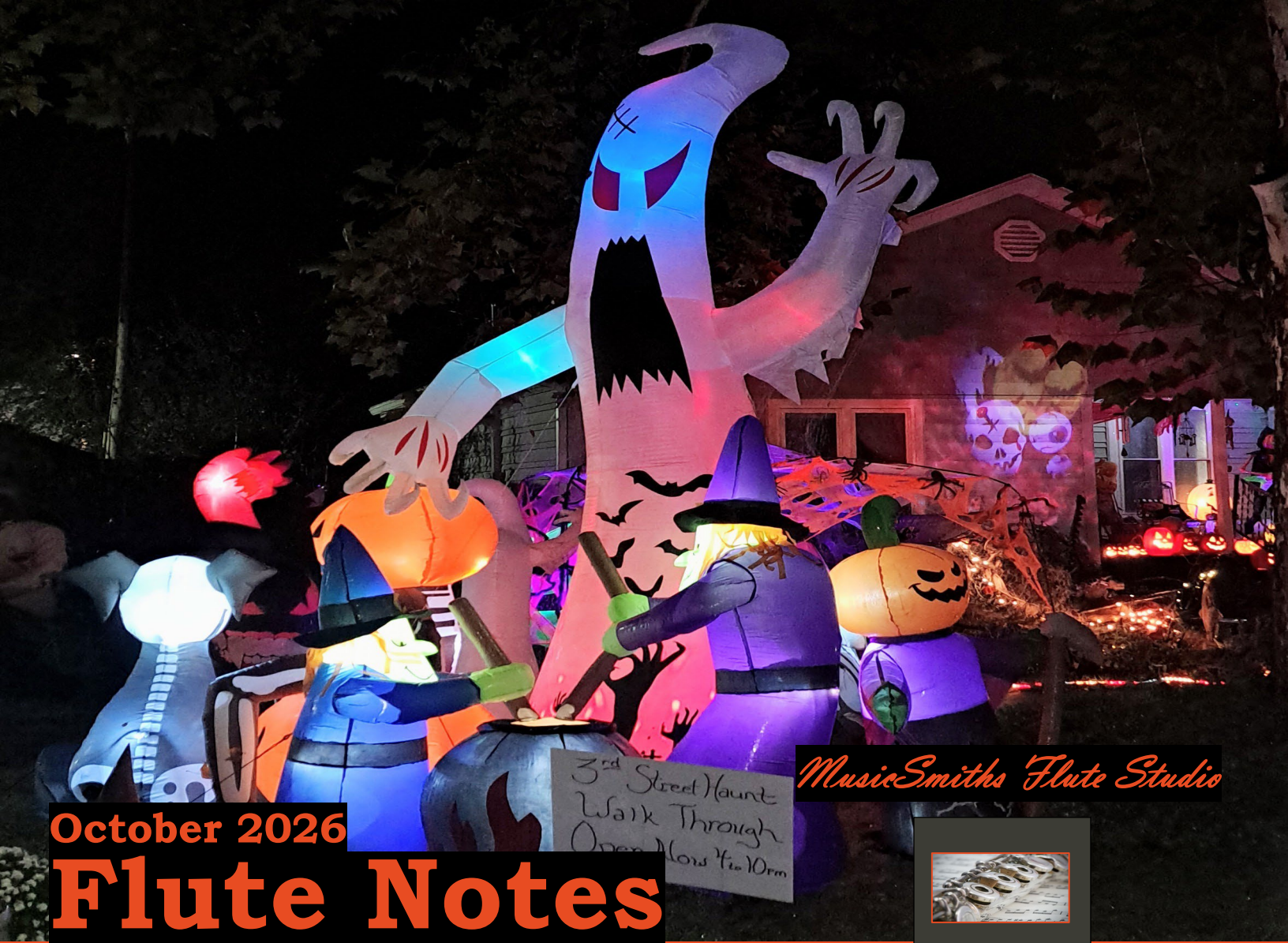




October 2026

Flute Notes

MusicSmiths Flute Studio



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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 16th**. Check with your band director on when and how to submit your recording. For helpful hints, see p. 2. District Band auditions are **November 7th**! 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 2027 Kansas Sousa Honor Band event will take place January 22-23, 2027, at the Lied Center in Lawrence, KS. *The deadline for submissions is **October 16, 2026**.* For more information:

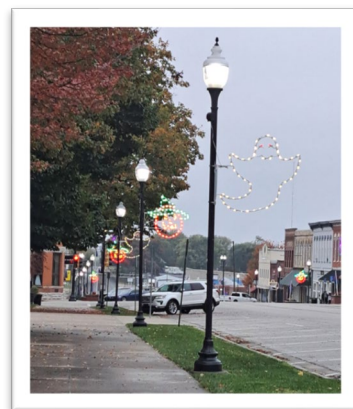
<https://ks-sousahonorband.org/>



Scared of Sightreading? Brush Up Your Skills!

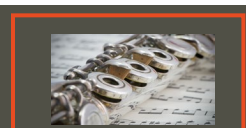
Do you find sightreading scary? It doesn't have to be! As my jr. high band director always told us, the best way to learn to sightread is to **do it!** District Band auditions **will** include sightreading! Here are some tips to help strengthen your sight-reading skills:

- 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 in order 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!



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

Sir James Galway



Fall Flute Events

MidAmerica Nazarene University

Kansas District Audition Masterclass

Sunday, October 11, 2026

2:00-3:15 pm

Bell Center, MNU Campus, Olathe, KS

Cost: \$13

Deadline to register: Monday, October 5, 2026

For information and to register:

[MNU KS District Audition Masterclass](#)

Kansas Flute Society

Fall Flute Festival

Alice Dade, Guest Artist

Sunday, October 11, 2026

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

Wiedemann Hall

Wichita State University

Information: [KFS Fall Festival](#)



Coming Events

Olathe Community Orchestra at Olathe Arts Festival

Saturday, October 10, 2026

11:00 & 11:30 am

Johnson County Square, downtown Olathe

Free and open to the public

Program: “Spooktoberfest” – music by J.S. Bach, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Edvard Grieg.

For more information:

[Olathe Community Orchestra](#)

KS John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band

Audition recordings are due October 16, 2026

[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!



The Amazing Doppler Brothers

Flutist brothers **Franz and Karl Doppler** began their musical studies with their father, Joseph, an oboist. The family moved often, and the brothers received more formal training in Warsaw and later, Vienna. While each brother pursued separate careers as flute soloists, conductors, and composers, it was their collaboration as a touring flute duo that brought them renown across Europe. Their showmanship, in which Karl's left-handed technique provided a striking "mirror image" as they performed, delighted audiences from Budapest to Paris to London. Their virtuosic duets with piano, which incorporated familiar opera themes combined with dazzling flute technique, captivated audiences, and contributed to the Doppler Brothers' legacy as innovative composers and orchestrators. Their flute duets are still among the most popular recital pieces in the flute repertoire. The brothers co-founded the Hungarian Philharmonic Orchestra in 1853, where they also shared conducting duties. Karl, who outlived his older brother by 17 years, published their many works, ensuring a lasting legacy of concert flute duo music.



*Flutists **Franz Doppler** (left) and **Karl Doppler** (right) toured extensively throughout Europe in the 1840s.*

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.

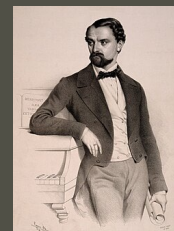


Composer of the Month

Franz Doppler

b. October 16, 1821

d. July 27, 1883



Austrian flute virtuoso and composer, **Albert Franz Doppler** made his debut as a professional flutist at the age of 13. He formed a flute duo with his brother Karl, performing Doppler's flute duet compositions to enthusiastic audiences. Although he composed mostly for the flute, Doppler also wrote seven operas, fifteen ballets, concertos, and showpieces. He is also regarded as a brilliant orchestrator. His most popular works for flute include *Fantasie Pastorale Hongroise*, Op. 26 for flute and piano, *Berceuse*, Op. 15 for flute and piano, *Airs Valaques*, Op. 10 for flute and piano, and *Andante and Rondo*, Op. 25 for two flutes and piano.



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