



March 2026

# Flute Notes

MusicSmiths Flute Studio

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## *Spring Forward!*

After a stretch of warm weather, March is coming in like a lion! Regional Solo/Ensemble Festival is coming up in a few weeks – time to set up practice sessions with your accompanists. See pg. 2 “Annual Contest Checklist” for helpful hints on preparing your best solo performance. Youth symphony audition info can also be found on pg. 2. Check pg. 3 for KSHSAA Regional Solo & Ensemble Festival dates and locations. Check out pg. 3 for details on three flute-specific events coming up this month. Reminder: No lessons during Spring Break, March 15-22. Lessons resume March 23. Looking forward to spring arriving this month!

*Emily*

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## Annual Contest Check List

By Emily Smith

Solo/Ensemble Festival is coming up fast! Are you ready? Use the following checklist to help you make the final preparations.

- \_\_ Practice with your accompaniment.
- \_\_ Practice tuning with the piano.
- \_\_ Practice your solo in the outfit you plan to wear, including shoes!
- \_\_ Practice your solo (with accompaniment, if possible) in front of friends and family.
- \_\_ Make sure you have *two original copies of your solo* – one for you and one for the adjudicator. I will lend you my copy for the judge; please be sure to return it to me after the event.
- \_\_ Take care of any repairs or adjustments your flute needs now; don't wait until the last minute!
- \_\_ Get plenty of sleep, eat healthy, and wash your hands frequently – Contest week is not a good time to get sick!
- \_\_ Focus your last few days of practice on little things you can improve to refine your performance. Use the comment sheet from your flute lesson as a guide (hint: I'll be judging you at your lesson before the contest date).
- \_\_ Practice smiling! Performing is *fun*! Enjoy the experience!



## Summer Flute Lessons Preview

*It's not too early to be thinking about summer flute lessons! I will be teaching June through July. My fall lesson schedule will start in mid-August when school resumes. Summer schedules are more flexible; we can easily work around vacations, camps, etc. Look for my summer flute schedule details next month!*



### Olathe Youth Symphony Auditions

2026-2027 Registration for audition opens March 1, 2026.

For more information and audition requirements:

[Olathe Youth Symphony Auditions](#)

### Youth Symphony of Kansas City Auditions

2026-2027 Audition information is available now. For

more information and audition requirements:

[YSKC Auditions](#)



## March Flute Events

**KCFA Annual Flute Day with Guest Flutists  
Jill Felber, Claudia Anderson, & Angeleita Floyd  
Saturday, March 7, 2026  
8 am to 4 pm  
Swarthout Recital Hall  
1600 Stewart Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66045**

**Free to KCFA members  
Non-member fee \$10  
For the schedule of events and registration:  
[KCFA Flute Day registration](#)**

**Kansas Flute Society Spring Festival  
Guest Artist: Daniel Velasco  
Professor of Flute, University of Kansas  
Sunday, March 29, 2026  
2:00-5:00 pm  
Hutchinson Community College  
Hutchinson, KS  
For information and registration:  
[KFS Spring Festival](#)**

**A flutist's best friend . . . your *TUNER!***



## Calendar of Events

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Swarthout Recital Hall  
1600 Stewart Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
Free to KCFA members; non-member fee \$10; registration  
required. For event schedule and registration:  
[KCFA Flute Day registration](#)**

**Kansas City Flute Choir Spring Concert  
“A Little ‘O This, A Little ‘O That”  
Sunday, March 8, 2026  
2:00 pm  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
7851 West 119<sup>th</sup> Street  
Overland Park, KS 66213  
Free Admission; Donations welcome  
Info: [KCFC on Facebook](#)**

**KSHSAA Regional Solo/Ensemble  
Saturday, April 11, 2026  
6A Olathe South High School (Olathe)  
6A Shawnee Heights High School (Gardner-  
Edgerton)  
5A Mill Valley High School (Spring Hill)**

European flutes from the Dayton C. Miller Flute Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. The collection includes pre-Boehm as well as Boehm system flutes. Read about Theobald Boehm, inventor of the modern flute, on page 4!



## Theobald Boehm, Inventor of the Modern Flute



German flutist and inventor, **Theobald Boehm**, revolutionized the flute fingering system, adding more tone holes and keys to the existing Western concert flute.

Born in Munich, Boehm's father was a goldsmith who educated his son in the goldsmithing trade. He eventually made his own flute and began making flutes from different materials, i.e. grenadilla (a tropical hardwood), silver, gold, and copper. He also experimented with changing the positions of the tone holes. After studying acoustics at the University of Munich, Boehm used his knowledge and skills to improve the flute's fingering system. This new mechanism, the "Boehm fingering system," patented in 1847, became the standard for flute makers going forward. His new flute was first displayed at the London Exhibition in 1851. In 1871, Boehm published his treatise on the Boehm flute, *The Flute and Flute-Playing*. Makers of other woodwinds, particularly oboe and clarinet, adopted the Boehm system for those instruments as well. The Boehm system has been modified and improved over time. It is still the foundational fingering system for the modern flute.

## March Lesson Schedule

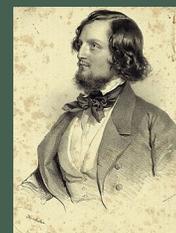
♪ **Spring Break:**  
**March 15-22 – No lessons**  
**Lessons resume March 23**

My policy is to make up missed lessons if I receive advance notice. I need at least a week's notice for non-emergency absences, such as a band concert or another planned trip or event. No-shows will not be made up.



## Composer of the Month

### Giulio Briccialdi



b. March 2, 1818  
d. December 17, 1881  
Giulio Briccialdi was an Italian virtuoso flutist, composer, and a technical innovator on his instrument. He is often credited with inventing the thumb Bb (or "Briccialdi") key on the Boehm flute. Throughout his career, Briccialdi served as a professor of flute in academic settings in Rome, Naples, and Florence. He wrote numerous works for the flute, including three concertos, eight fantasias for flute and piano based on opera themes, *Duo Concertante for Two Flutes in F Major*, Op. 100/2, and his most famous piece, *Carnival of Venice for Flute and Orchestra*, Op. 78. In 1996, asteroid N. 7714 was named in his honor.



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