



# *MusicSmiths Flute Studio*

## **Online Flute Lesson Guide**

**2020 – 2021**

Welcome to Online Flute Lessons! This is your guide for accessing lessons and group sessions online, ordering music, flute repair, and more. This guide includes links to sources for music as well as recommendations for useful apps for students – please archive!

### **Flute Lessons Will Be Offered Online Only Until Further Notice.**

As much as I would like to resume in-person lessons, I feel it just isn't safe yet. It comes down to this: viral exposure (from talking and playing the flute) over an extended period of time (30- or 45-minute lesson) in an indoor space with limited air exchange (my studio) = greater risk to all of us. Compounding this equation are the current reopening measures in our area with limited testing availability and very little contact tracing. Therefore, all lessons will be taught online indefinitely.



### *Online Lesson Platforms*

**These are the platforms I'm currently using to connect with my students:**

- 1) **Zoom** – This has been my go-to platform. It allows me to share content onscreen with my students, and the sound quality overall has been pretty good. Zoom is also ideal for offering group sessions with my students. For groups, Zoom is my default platform. I will email a link that can be used each week to login.
- 2) **Skype** – I prefer the sound quality on Skype to that of Zoom, but I understand some students are more comfortable with Zoom. You don't have to have a Skype account; I can email a link, and the student can login as a guest.
- 3) **Google Duo** – The sound quality is generally not as good as Zoom or Skype, but it's a good alternative in case there's a connection problem with the other platform.

***See pp. 5-6 of this guide for login instructions.***



## Lesson and Practice Tips for Students

These are my recommendations/requirements to facilitate online lessons:



**Image** -- As much as possible, try to position yourself so your face and flute are fully visible on screen. I know this is more difficult if you are logging in from a phone or tablet, but it should be easier on a desktop or laptop where the screen is larger. If you are using a smaller device, step back from the screen.



**Sound** – If possible, move away from the microphone to minimize distortion. If you are using headphones or earbuds with an integrated microphone, you may need to turn off the mic if it's too close to the flute. Everyone has different equipment; it's not one-size-fits-all. Also, depending on the platform, you may be able to adjust your settings.



**Sheet music/books vs On-Screen Files** – Ideally, each student can work from books or sheet music that they can mark on directly. You will need to order your own books (see p. 3 for sources). If at all possible, please print out copies of sheet music so you can mark on it in pencil. If printing is not possible, the next best thing is to invest in a notebook. *I will also create a **Dropbox** folder for each student so you can keep lesson files in one place.*



**Pencil & Notebook** – I believe a notebook is indispensable for online lessons. The student can make notes about specific pieces (especially if the music is online) as well as reminders of what to practice for the next lesson. I will expect everyone to have a notebook handy going forward!



**Metronome/Tuner** – Each student must have a metronome! There are numerous free apps you can download to your device. A metronome/tuner combo is even better! Here are a few I recommend: ***Soundcorset Tuner & Metronome; The Metronome by Soundbrenner; Tonal Energy***. All are downloadable from Google Playstore.



**Fingering Chart/Trill Chart** – A fingering/trill chart is a must! If you don't have one in your band book or other lesson books, here's a handy app you can download on your device to quickly find fingerings: ***Flute fingercharts***. It's downloadable from Google Playstore. The basic app is free, but I recommend spending the \$5.99 fee for the Pro version. It gives the user access to all fingerings plus sound so you can listen – especially helpful on the trill fingerings.



## *Music/Books/Other Lesson Materials - Where to Order*

In the past, I ordered music for my students and had them reimburse me. But that's impractical for online lessons. I will send an email with the title/author/publisher when a student is ready for a new book as well as ordering information. Below are the online sources I regularly order from and recommend; you can click on the company name to link directly to its website:

1) [Fluteworld.com](http://Fluteworld.com)

I order nearly everything from Flute World. They have all the materials I use and normally ship within 1-2 weeks. Flute World is also a great source for accessories, and they have a generous trial program for new flute purchases.

2) [SheetMusicPlus.com](http://SheetMusicPlus.com)

This company carries a vast library of music, not only for flute, but for all other instruments as well. Shipping is pretty fast, usually arriving within a week. You can use my personal web address for Sheet Music Plus [HERE](#). I have also created a music list of the materials I use in lessons. I will email the list to my students.

3) [Carolyn Nussbaum](http://CarolynNussbaum.com)

Like Flute World, Carolyn Nussbaum Music Company is a great source for all things flute – music, instruments, accessories, and more. Shipping time is usually within a week. They also have a free trial program for new instrument purchases.

**Other options:**

[J.W. Pepper](http://J.W.Pepper.com) – Known mostly as a supplier of large ensemble music, J.W. Pepper also carries a fairly extensive catalog of flute solos, method books, etc. Items in stock generally arrive within two weeks.

[Amazon](http://Amazon.com) – I rarely order from Amazon, but I know it's the go-to site for many people. If you're ordering other items from Amazon, it may be convenient to add a flute book to the order. Therefore, I have linked the name to the "flute music" page; however, be aware you may have to do some searching for some books. Also, be alert for "used" books, which may be cheaper. I don't recommend buying used music books because pages may be missing or otherwise marked up. I feel it's to the student's benefit to play from a new (clean) copy. Shipping times vary.



## Flute Repair

Even if you're not playing in band every day, your flute may develop a leak or need a pad replaced. If you need to take your flute to a shop for repair, I recommend the following repair technicians – they do excellent work and typically have a faster turn-around because they do repairs in-house rather than sending it out:

### Doctor Note

#### Harold Steinhardt, repair tech

7385 W. 97<sup>th</sup> Street  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
913-648-2696  
[steinhardt@doctornote.net](mailto:steinhardt@doctornote.net)  
[www.doctornote.net](http://www.doctornote.net)

### BAC Music

#### Kristy Filippini, repair tech

14933 Metcalf Avenue  
Overland Park, KS 66223  
Main Ph: 913-390-1776  
Mobile Ph: 651-357-3332  
[kristy@bacmusic.com](mailto:kristy@bacmusic.com)

Tools for minor repairs you can do yourself -- the following products are available at **Flute World** and **Carolyn Nussbaum Music**:

- 1) **Multi-Tool FIXIT Tool** -- Screwdriver and spring hook in one tool that can fit inside or attach to your case. \$9.95  
<https://www.fluteworld.com/product/multi-tool-fixit-tool/>
- 2) **BG Pad Dryer** – Cloth strip that can be used to alleviate sticking keys due to excess moisture.  
One pad lasts about a year. \$6.00  
<https://www.fluteworld.com/product/bg-pad-dryer/>
- 3) **BG Flute Discovery Kit** – Contains one pad dryer, one lip plate cleaner, and two hand positioners. \$13.95  
<https://www.fluteworld.com/product/bg-flute-discovery-kit/>
- 4) **Flute cloth swabs** – I recommend using a washable cloth flute swab with your cleaning rod rather than a “pad saver” (the long fuzzy rod that fits inside the flute). Pad savers are not sanitary and cannot be washed. The following swabs are soft, lint-free, and machine washable:  
**Hodge Silk Flute Swab**, \$8.95 (colors: black, blue, green, purple, wine)  
<https://www.fluteworld.com/product/hodge-silk-flute-swab-black/>  
**Hodge Silk Piccolo Swab**, \$5.25 (colors: black, blue, green, purple, wine)  
<https://www.fluteworld.com/product/hodge-silk-piccolo-swab-black/>  
**Beaumont Bamboo Flute Swab**, \$10.80 (colors: black and five prints)  
<https://www.fluteworld.com/product/ Beaumont-bamboo-flute-swab-concert-noir-25x25/>



## *Logging into Your Online Flute Lessons*

### *Student will need:*

- \* Internet with an upload speed of at least 2Mb/sec or better. You can check your internet speed at [www.speedtest.net](http://www.speedtest.net)
- \* Access to **Zoom**, **Skype**, or **Google Duo** – these platforms are compatible with Android and iOS devices, including phones, tablets, laptops, and desktops. Make sure you have the app downloaded onto your device.
- \* A metronome separate from the device being used for our connection.
- \* A pencil!
- \* A notebook to write down assignments and other notes for practicing
- \* Lesson books and sheet music – please print out electronic files if possible so you can mark on them!
- \* Earbuds or headphones
- \* A phone in case the connection is too slow or interrupted (I will call you via Google Duo in that case)

### *To do before the FIRST online lesson:*

- 1- *Check that you know where the microphone is on your device and that you know how to control its volume. Do the same for the speakers.*
  
- 2 - *Send me an email with the following:*
  - a) The phone number you wish to use to connect for Google Duo or in case we lose our connection on another platform.
  - b) Email address you wish to receive your Zoom or Skype link
  
- 3 - *Try Connecting with a friend or family member through Zoom, Google Duo or Skype to make sure you know how it works. Try to angle your device in such a way that your instrument is audible and visible, and your face is visible. If you wish, you may also do a test with me before the lesson so we can make sure we have a good connection.*
  
- 4 - *Ask family members not to stream video while we are having the lesson as it will slow down the internet speed.*
  
- 5 - *If possible, it is best to be positioned close to the router or modem during the lesson as the speed is often better there.*
  
- 6 - *Choose a room where you can close the door so that we aren't bothered by pets and family members. A room that isn't too reverberant is ideal.*

### *Logging in at Lesson Time:*



Have your flute (and piccolo) assembled and ready to play.



Set up your music stand with lesson materials and a pencil where you can easily see it and still be visible on your device.



Position your device for optimal sound and video.



If you are using Zoom or Skype, I will email you a link to log in.



If you are using Google Duo, I will call you at the number you provided



Be sure to connect your audio!



### *Troubleshooting:*

\*If the connection is not working well on Zoom or Skype, I will call you on Google Duo. If it is still problematic, we can try having the lesson over the phone with audio only. I may ask you to record any pieces I didn't get to hear and then I will send you feedback via email. I will also scan any music or documents we discussed during the lesson and send them to you.

\* Even with the best connection, there will be a delay between what you play and what I hear (and vice-versa). For that reason, we won't be able to play duets very easily. However, I may send you a recording of me playing one of the parts so you can play along with the recording. Or you can always record yourself playing one part, then play the other part along with it. Because of the delay, I will also have you use your own metronome during the lesson.

Please let me know if you have any questions! I'm looking forward to our online lessons!

*Emily*

**MusicSmiths Flute Studio**  
[esmithflute@gmail.com](mailto:esmithflute@gmail.com)  
[www.musicsmithsflutestudio.com](http://www.musicsmithsflutestudio.com)

