



*MusicSmiths Flute Studio*

**October 2022**

# **Flute Notes**



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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 21st**. Check with your band director on when and how to submit your recording. For helpful hints, see p. 2. District Band auditions are *in person* this year – **November 5th!** I'll walk you through the process with a *Mock Audition* exercise during your last lesson before the audition date. And, my orchestra's first concert of the season is **Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 pm** – *fun music, free admission . . . and food!* 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 2023 Kansas Sousa Honor Band will take place **January 20-21, 2023**, at the Lied Center in Lawrence, KS. **The deadline for submissions is October 21, 2022.** For more information:

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



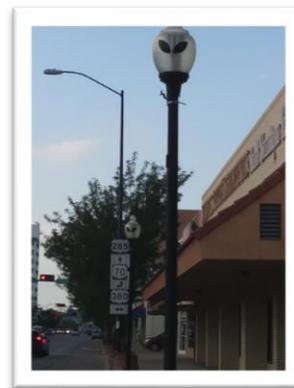
## Scared of Sightreading? Brush Up Your Skills!

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 this year.

Here are some tips to help strengthen your sight-reading skills:

- 1) Go to **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!



“Alien” streetlights.  
Roswell, New Mexico

“The flute chose me.”

Lizzo



## Fall Flute Events

### Kansas Flute Society

#### Fall Flute Festival

Sunday, October 2, 2022

Emporia State University

Information: <https://www.ksflute.org/fall-flute-festival>

### MidAmerica Nazarene University

#### Kansas District Audition Masterclass

Sunday, October 16, 2022

MNU Campus, Olathe, KS

For information: [ldjohnson@mnu.edu](mailto:ldjohnson@mnu.edu)

### Kansas City Flute Association

#### Think & Train Like An Olympian

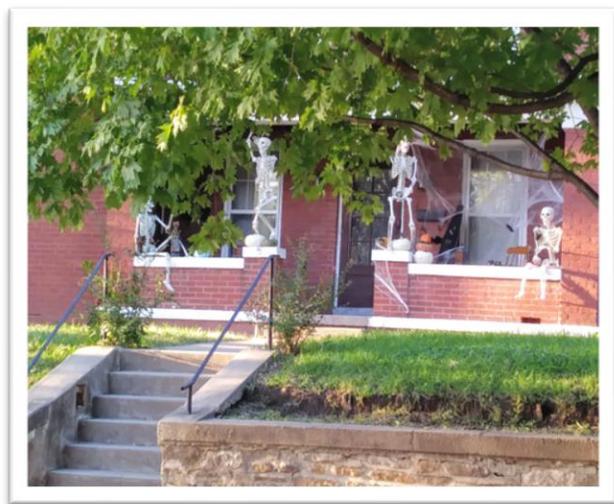
Sunday, October 23, 2022

7:00-8:30 pm

Zoom

How to apply Olympic mental skills coaching to performing arts training. Free to members; \$10 for non-members

More info: <https://kcfa.wildapricot.org/event-4958244>



## Coming Events

### Olathe Community Orchestra Concert

“Fall Classics”

Sunday, October 2, 2022

3:00 pm

Grace United Methodist Church

11485 S. Ridgeview Road, Olathe, KS

Free admission; reception at intermission

Program: Works by Borodin, Brahms, Shostakovich, Weber and Highlights from *Wicked*.

### KS John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band

Audition recordings are due October 21, 2022.

<https://ks-sousahonorband.org/2023-audition-music/>

### ECKMEA HS District Honor Band Auditions

Music requirements for HS District/State Honor Band have been posted: <https://ksmea.org/hsband/excerpts/>

*\*Note: Links to Sousa and District Band info and materials are also posted on my website:*

<https://www.musicsmithsflutestudio.com/just-for-students>

## Coming Soon:

### District Band Mock Audition!

District Auditions are in person for the first time since 2019. At your last lesson before the audition date, I'll walk you through the process with a mock audition. All month, we'll practice sightreading. For sightreading practice at home, check out my sightreading practice tips on p. 2.

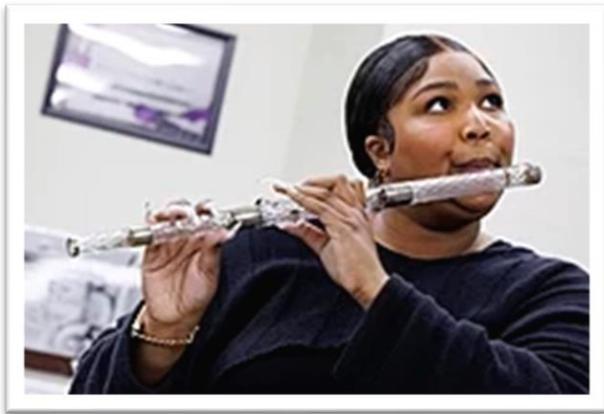
*Don't forget to practice your scales, too!*



## Lizzo Plays Historic Flute!

Pop star and flutist Lizzo recently made headlines when she got the opportunity to play a crystal flute that belonged to President James Madison. The flute was given to Madison by a French flute maker in honor of his second inauguration. It is among the vast collection of historic flutes from all over the world housed at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. (The crystal flute is featured in the LOC poster hanging in my studio). The Library staff invited Lizzo to tour the collection and play some of the flutes. She asked to play the Madison flute at her D.C. concert, but she also played it in the Main Reading Room at the LOC (see photo below). Click on the link below to view a YouTube video of her crystal flute “tryout!”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vorGz2FuulQ>



## 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

Camille Saint-Saëns

b. October 9, 1835

d. December 16, 1921

French composer, organist, conductor, and pianist Camille Saint-Saëns was a musical prodigy who studied at the prestigious Paris Conservatory. He is best known for the opera *Samson & Delilah* (1877), *Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso* (1863), *Second Piano Concerto* (1868), *First Cello Concerto* (1872), and *Carnival of the Animals* (1886). His tone poem *Danse Macabre* (1874) remains a popular feature of Halloween concerts to this day. Flute work: *Airs de Ballet from "Ascanio;" Odelette, Op. 162 for Flute & Orchestra; Romance, Op. 37 for Flute & Orchestra; and Caprice sur des Airs Danois et Russet, Op. 79 for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Piano.*



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