

MusicSmiths Flute Studio

November 2026
Flute Notes

Volume 8 | Issue No. 3| MusicSmiths Flute Studio

Thankful for a Busy Month!

November is audition month! Are you ready for District auditions? We'll do a mock audition at your lesson before the event so you know what to expect. Need flute repair after marching season? See p.2 for flute repair recommendations. Are you in the market for a new flute? I can arrange for Judi's Woodwinds to send me several different brands you can try out during your lesson, details p.2. The Olathe Community Orchestra is presenting our fall concert this month, featuring Dvořák's *New World Symphony*, Suite No. 1 from *Carmen*, and Music from *Frozen*. See Coming Events on p. 3 for details. There are no lessons scheduled during Thanksgiving week. Enjoy your holiday break.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Emily

Inside This Issue

PG. 2

Annual Flute Buying Guide
Where to Buy a Good Flute
Recommended Repair Technicians

PG. 3

"Mock" District Auditions Week
Coming Events

PG. 4

Dvořák's "New World" Symphony
Lesson Schedule
Contact Information
Composer of the Month

Annual Flute Buying Guide

Buying a new flute can be a fun, exciting . . . and confusing experience. One of my favorite parts of my job is helping to navigate my students through the process. Here are some tips to keep in mind before you start looking at flutes.

First, think of buying a flute in much the same way you consider the purchase of a new car. It's an expensive investment, so you'll want to "test drive" several models before you settle on one. Expect to spend around $2,000 for a new step-up flute. But, like a car, there are several "standard features" you want to look for. Here's a list of the features a good step-up should have:

1) **Solid Silver head joint**. The head joint is the resonator of the instrument; solid silver is a must for a beautiful, resonant sound. A silver-plated body/foot is less expensive, but if you can afford it, a solid silver body/foot is more resonant.

2) **B-foot joint.** Most step-up flutes come with a "B-foot" – the foot joint has an extra key and is longer than the "C-foot" on a beginner flute. The extra length enhances the sound in all registers.

3) **Open-hole keys/offset G key.** The open holes also enhance the sound. Most G keys these days are "offset," just like on closed hole flutes, which makes them more ergonomic.

4) **Handcrafting.** From the lip plate to the pads, many features are handcrafted, not factory-made.

How Do I Know It's the Right Flute for Me?

Sound: Play some long tones and part of a solo or etude in all registers. The sound should be clear, notes should speak well, and you shouldn't have to strain to reach upper notes.

Response: Play some scales and a few fast passages. The keys should respond easily; if you feel like you're working hard, try another flute!

***Overall comfort*:** Do you like how it feels in your hands? Does it play easily? Do you like the way you sound? If so, then you've found your flute! If not, then keep looking. Take your time and try as many different models as possible. Not every flute fits every player. Find the best flute for *you*!

Where Can I Buy a Good Flute?



In the Kansas City area, the best source for purchasing high quality step-up flutes is Judi's Woodwind Shop, located just north of Leavenworth, KS. Judi Dietz is a highly skilled flute repair technician and sells several top flute brands in many price ranges: Altus, Azumi, Miyazawa, Lyric, Trevor James, Powell Sonare, Northbridge, and more. She can send several different brands to me for my students to try out in my studio. Let me know your price range, and I will contact Judi to send me flutes for you to try. For more information about Judi's Woodwind Shop, visit her website: http://www.judiswwshop.com/

There are also several reputable online sources. The following sites carry high quality flutes and offer trial options so you can t before you buy:

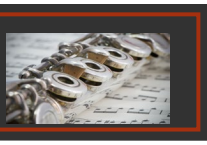
Flute World **Carolyn Nussbaum Music Company**
Flutistry Boston **Flute Center of New York**

Flute Repair Technicians

Doctor Note
Matt Purcell, tech
7385 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66212
913.648.2696

Olathe Band Instrument
Mike Rankin, tech
15665 Lake Rd 4
Gardner, KS 66030
913.302.2411

Judi's Woodwind Shop
Judi Dietz, tech
18431 Logan Road
Leavenworth, KS 66048
913.772.4568



ECKMEA HS District Honor Band Auditions

November 7, 2026 – All Day
Shawnee Mission North High School

Students: Remember to take your music with you, including scales! You will be allowed to use it in the audition room. Play your best – the most important thing is that you feel you played well in your audition. Best of luck to you!



Mock Audition Week: November 2nd – 6th!

To help you feel ready and confident for your District Honor Band audition on November 7th, I will play "judge" during your lesson the week prior to the audition. I'll choose scales and excerpts, plus sight-reading – everything we've been doing over the last several weeks. But this time, I'll be sitting behind a screen, scoring your practice audition on a score sheet. My goal is to give you a sense of what the audition is like and get some of the jitters out! Be sure to bring your own marked copies of the music, as you will be allowed to do so at the audition.



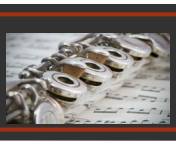
Coming Events

Olathe Community Orchestra Concert:
"Goin' Home"
Sunday, November 22, 2026
3:00 pm
Grace United Methodist Church
11485 S. Ridgeview Road, Olathe, KS 66061
Admission free; reception at intermission
For information: Olathe Community Orchestra

Olathe Youth Symphony Winter Concert
Special guests: Olathe Community Orchestra
Sunday, December 6, 2026
3:30 pm
Olathe South High School Auditorium
1640 E. 151st Street, Olathe, KS 66062
Admission free
For information: Olathe Youth Symphony







Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor, "From the New World"

One of the most popular and most loved symphonies of all time is Symphony No. 9, "From the New World," by Czech composer Antonin Dvořák. It was written during Dvořák's tenure as director of the National Conservatory of Music of America, 1892-1895, and it was premiered in New York City on December 16, 1893. During his time in America, Dvořák became interested in Native American music and African-American spirituals. Hints of this uniquely American music can be heard throughout the symphony. The famous Largo melody, from the second movement, is a popular theme that most young musicians will recognize from band and string method books. The Olathe Community Orchestra will perform the "New World" Symphony this month. See Coming Events, p. 3 for details!



Nov/Dec Lesson Schedule

- ♪ ***No regular lessons November 23-29: Thanksgiving Break. (Nov 23 make-ups only)***
- ♪ ***No lessons December 20, 2026 – January 3, 2027. Lessons resume January 4, 2027.***

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



Composer of the Month

Anna Amalia, Princess of Prussia

b. November 9, 1723
d. March 30, 1787

The sister of Frederick II "The Great" of Prussia, Anna Amalia distinguished herself as a composer and music curator. Her best-known work is the Sonata in F Major for Flute and Basso Continuo (1771), possibly written with her brother Frederick, a flutist, in mind. Her chamber music compositions are well-known. Anna Amalia also collected music, preserving over 600 volumes by composers such as J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach. G.F. Handel, and G.P. Telemann. In 1755, she was elected Princess-Abbess of the Free Secular Imperial Abbey of Quedlinburg. The prestigious position gave her the authority and the means to become not only a respected composer but also a patron of music.



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