



September 2020
Flute Notes

MusicSmiths Flute Studio



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A School Year Like No Other

The 2020-2021 school year will finally begin this month – online for most students in the area. Due to the continued rise in Covid-19 cases in our area, I will continue teaching all flute lessons online as well. It will be interesting to see how band classes adapt to the online format. I look forward to hearing from my students about their band experience, and I’m happy to assist with any recorded assignments. Of course, we will continue preparing for Sousa and District Band auditions. Plus, I will be offering group sessions this fall to help my students prepare for the auditions. In the works: “**District Band Game Plan**” – the online version of last year’s “**District Band Game Day.**” See p. 3 for details. I’m also considering other group session topics. Let me know if you have a suggestion of something you’d like to see covered! Here’s to a school year like no other – let’s make the most of it!

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Getting the Most from Online Lessons

Now that we've been having lessons online for a few months, I think we've mostly got the hang of it! Still, there are a few things students can do to facilitate a better online lesson experience:

- 1) Have your flute/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. Keep a notebook handy to jot down assignments and practice instructions.
- 2) Position your device for optimal sound and video. If you are using Zoom on a laptop or desktop, you can adjust the audio settings to minimize the flute "cutting out," as it tends to do, especially in the high register. From the Zoom app, click on the Settings icon in the upper right-hand corner (under your profile photo). Click on "Audio" in the menu on the left side of the screen. Click on the "Advanced" button in the lower right-hand corner. Set "Suppress Persistent Background Noise" and "Suppress Intermittent Background Noise" to Disable.
- 3) Ask family members not to stream video during your lesson, as it can slow down the internet speed. Position the device you are using as close to the router as possible.
- 4) Practice using good posture and hand position, even if you are seated in front of your device. If possible, try to stand during the lesson. Try not to "hunch" over – position your device so that it's eye-level. For more tips: [Online Lesson Guide](#)



Dropbox Folders

I have set up a dropbox folder for each of my students! I emailed a share invite to each student. If you need me to resend it, let me know. Your dropbox folder includes a handy online lesson guide plus any etudes, solos, or other music students are currently working on that is not in your lesson books. The dropbox folder is a convenient way to keep all of these materials in one place so you don't have to search your inbox for emailed files!

Keeping Your Flute Clean and Safe in the Age of Covid

Eventually, students will return to school buildings. When you do, pay careful attention to how you handle – and clean – your flute. Get in the habit now!

- 1) **Do not share your flute. Period.**
- 2) **Swab each section of the flute EVERY time after you play. Use a soft, clean cloth with the cleaning rod (do NOT use a pad saver).**
- 3) **After swabbing, place the cloth in a plastic Ziploc bag and take it home with your flute. Remove the cloth and put in the laundry; toss the bag.**
- 4) **Use an isopropyl alcohol swab to wipe off the lip plate and keys.**
- 5) **ALWAYS wash your hands before and after handling your flute!**

MusicSmiths Flute Studio on Nextdoor!

*Hey Students and Parents!! I have created a MusicSmiths Flute Studio business page on **Nextdoor**! I would be honored if you would head over to the page and write a recommendation for the flute studio. Thanks so much for your support!*

<https://nextdoor.com/.../musicsmiths-flute-studio-.../recommend/>



District Band Game Plan!

Last year MusicSmiths Flute Studio held its first ever *District Band Game Day*. This year, we're taking it online for the *2020 District Band Game PLAN!*

When: Sunday, October 25, 2020; 3:00-4:30 pm

Where: From your house, via Zoom! A link will be sent after participants sign up.

What: Group session for students auditioning for District Band – we'll cover scales and excerpts, plus tips for video-recording this year's audition (see "New Rules for 2020 District Band Auditions" below right).

Mark your calendars – join us on *October 25th* to make *YOUR District Band Audition Game Plan!*

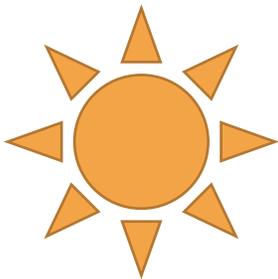


Fall Studio Group Sessions

I have some ideas for group sessions this fall; I'll be asking my students for feedback on what kinds of programs appeal to them most. Ideas include:

- ♪ Extended Techniques for Flute
- ♪ Studio Talent Show
- ♪ Virtual Flute Caroling
- ♪ Student Composer Showcase

What would you like to do in a group session? Let me know! I'm taking suggestions!



Coming Events

KS John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band

Music for 2020-21 Sousa Auditions is available!

For music and information:

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

ECKMEA HS District Honor Band Auditions

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

I also have my own practice guides for the audition pieces, link to my website below.

Note: District Band auditions will be submitted by video-recording this year. For more info:

<https://eckmea.org/>

**Note: Links to Sousa and District Band info and materials are also posted on my website. Go to the *new* "Just for Students" page:*

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

All the Way to All-State 2020 Virtual Flute Camp

Dr. Carmen Lemoine, flute instructor at Wichita State University, is offering an 8-week course for students who are preparing for District and State Band auditions. Details:

When: September 2nd – October 28th

Time: Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 pm CDT

Classes will be recorded for participants to watch later

Platform: Zoom

Cost: Suggested amount \$40 (\$5 per class)

Scholarships are available to help with costs

For more information and to sign up:

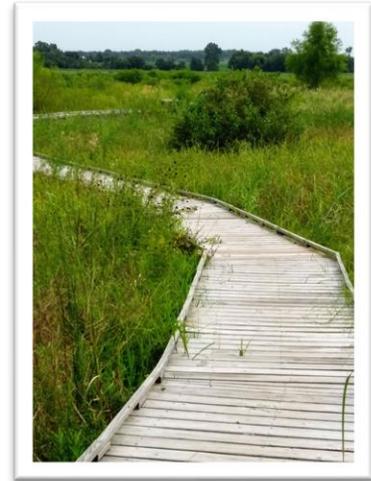
[All the Way to All-State 2020](#)



Need to De-stress? Take a Nature Break

Recently I visited the Baker University Wetlands & Discovery Center, located just south of Lawrence, KS (see photos on this page and p.1 of this newsletter). A nature preserve spanning nearly 927 acres near the Wakarusa River, the Wetlands features a .37 mile “boardwalk” near the Discovery Center, as well as hiking trails throughout the preserve. It’s quiet and serene, and a great place to observe birds and other wildlife. It’s a great place for a late summer day trip before school starts. Take a mask, but you probably won’t need to wear it on the trails – lots of space for social distancing. Especially now, getting outdoors for a “nature break” is a great way to de-stress. I highly recommend it! For more information:

<https://www.bakeru.edu/history-traditions/the-wetlands/>



September Lesson Schedule

♪ **No lesson Monday, 9/7/20 (Labor Day); Make-up: Monday, 8/31/20**

Please note: **All lessons will continue to be taught online until further notice.** My policy is to make up missed lessons if I receive advance notice. No-shows will not be made up.

Composer of the Month

Jacques-Martin Hotteterre

b. September 29, 1674

d. July 16, 1763

French composer and flutist – the most celebrated member of the Hotteterre family of musicians and instrument makers. He wrote numerous pieces for flute as well as other instruments, such as oboe and bassoon. His method book, *L’Art de préluder sur la flute traversière*, was the first flute manual in Europe and was widely used. The Hotteterre family is often credited with effectuating a revolutionary change in the design of the transverse flute from one cylindrical piece to three pieces: head, body, and foot. The head remained cylindrical, while the body was conical. Keys were also added.



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