

THE MIDWEST CLINIC 2002
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Flute Clinic

Thursday, December 19 at 8:30 am
Waldorf Room, Hilton & Towers - Chicago

HOW TO "FALL IN LOVE" WITH THE FLUTE

OR

WHY THE FIRST STEPS ARE SO IMPORTANT

Sponsored by Muramatsu America



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Soon after you shake hands with someone you just met, you form an opinion of him or her.

It is the same with all instruments.

*Children should know **why** they chose the flute... (or another instrument).*

- Why do we all like our hobbies? Because we're interested. THE most important thing is the INTEREST in a certain instrument. We do need to emphasize this fact many times (*almost regularly*).
- The first contact with the instruments MUST be, I repeat MUST be, natural so that from the very beginning our student will like the instrument. (*With the Questionnaire "About the Flute" we get THE important information about each pupil.*)
- The best way to "teach" them is that **they participate** in learning how to hold the flute, where to put the fingers, how to blow into the headjoint... *Let them provide the questions and encourage them to answer themselves – so that they think!!*
- **DON'T show them everything and don't philosophize. Simply DO IT.** *Change the "positions and details" later. We have to be aware that we/teachers should replace the "instruction books" to help them learn.*
- How to hold the flute? "Correct" posture is the **most comfortable one** (*we don't all have the same size hands*).
- If we start to teach young or very young children we can, *thank God* "offer" them smaller flutes such as a fife or flute with curved headjoint so that they can hold (*and love*) their instrument immediately. The flute should really be the part of the body.
- Play the flute! Don't blow it (*...find the most beautiful sound you can make, and enjoy it...*) But what is beautiful? *That's something you can not hear or see but that's something what you can feel!!!*
- Intonation should be part of the playing from the very beginning. *When there's a problem, try to sing an easy tune and then play it with the instrument.*
- Shall Band Directors (*usually Clarinet/Sax players*) teach our instrument? Yes, but don't expect "miracles", expect that after the "real" flute teacher takes over the lessons, details should be fixed.
- Many times we speak about the greatest flutists who usually "take care" of the flutists who have been already very well trained... What happens to those beginners or younger ones? WE need to take care of them AND we need to be very precise.
- Try to find a room to practise where you **feel good**.
- If you don't feel well when you begin to practise... *go for a walk!!*
- Before you start to practise.... **Make a plan** of what you would like to achieve that day.
- Our goal is the concert. *We should always think to play for others – try to use imagination when do you practise.*
- Don't practise mistakes and don't practise bad playing!! Do practise correct notes and good playing. *The rules of music are independent from the instrument!!*
- MUSIC; the notes are the body, and interpretation is like **clothes**.... *We don't all wear the same color or model.*
- Good technique is NOT a speed but a correct playing of the music which has been written by the composer (*we need to play it as written – not how we think it's written!!*)
- Music is fun and pleasure BUT music is also ART and aesthetic. *It provides you with beauty.*
- Music is like a drug, *thank God*, not harmful.

About the Flute! (Questionnaire)

1. Why do you like the flute?

I like the flute because

2. If you made a list of your hobbies, in which place would the flute be?

Flute is #..... on the list of my hobbies.

3. How often do you practice?

I practice a day or a week.

- I practice because I like to.
- I practice because my parents force me to.
- I practice because someone reminds me to.

4. I consider flute lessons...

- as fun
- as a school obligation

At the lessons...

- I would like to know more about the piece, composer,...
- I'm satisfied if I play the program through and if my teacher is happy and in a good mood.
- I would also like to listen to recordings and to find some articles.

5. What kind of pieces (for flute) do you prefer?

- Classical (which is your favorite?).....
- Popular (which is your favorite?).....

6. At home, do you have any recordings with flute music?

- Unfortunately I don't, but I would like to have them.
- Yes I have (how many).... CD's.
- I don't need them.

7. Do you go to classical music concerts or do you listen to any classical music radio stations?

- I attend concerts (also when the flute player is a soloist) and sometimes listen to classical radio.
- So far I haven't been to any concerts, and I prefer POP or ROCK music.

8. Do you know any famous flutists? If yes - write their names:.....

9. Why do you play the flute now and what would you like to do with it in the future?

Now I play the flute...

- because one of my friend plays it as well.
- for my own pleasure.
- because my parents like the flute.
- because it's fancy.
- Other.....

For the future...

- I hope to play in the band.
- I will quit.
- I would like to play in an orchestra.
- I will play chamber music with friends.
- Other.....

10. Have you performed in public (concert)? How did you feel?

.....
.....

Would you like to do it more often?.....

11. Do you know of any flute magazine (if yes - which)?

In your opinion, what should a flute magazine contain?

.....
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12. Have you been to any flute festivals or summer flute masterclasses?

- If yes - how did you like it?.....
- If not - what would you expect to get from attending such an event or class?.....



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