

Piccolo Perspectives
by
Nan Raphael

Role of the piccolo in Band

- *Icing on the cake as the highest voice in band
- *Adds color

Who should play piccolo?

- *One of your strongest players--it is a solo part and requires a great deal of confidence

Placement of piccolo in Band

- *Best in second row next to Eb clarinet. Piccolo and Eb clarinet are doubled a lot
- *As conductor you will not necessarily hear the same balance that is heard out in the hall. A piccoloist under your nose will sound too loud to you even if it's not too loud in the over all mix.

Differences between flute and piccolo

- *Just because one can play flute well, doesn't mean they can play piccolo just as well.
- *There are differences in response and intonation
 - upper register can be flat on piccolo unlike flute which is usually sharp
 - A smaller margin of error for pitch on piccolo
- *Placement of instrument on lip--generally higher on piccolo
- * Piccolo demands more endurance and strength
- *Use of air--not as much is required on piccolo. At times it is necessary to expel air while playing like an oboe player does

How flute playing helps piccolo playing

- *Keeps embouchure more relaxed and sound more open
- * Technique

How Piccolo playing helps flute playing

- *Builds endurance especially in upper register
- *Facilitates soft playing

Use of vibrato

- *Use very sparingly in tutti passages for better blend
- * Vibrato generally narrower than on flute

Metal vs. wood

- *Metal- good for marching band, generally more shrill sounding

*Wood- mellower and used by professional players

A third and very good alternative--composite

*Is mellower than metal and wears well in all weather conditions

Bore shape

Conical- smaller at foot end, provides more uniform sound throughout range

Cylindrical- as implies, same width throughout- easier response in upper register

but thinner in lower register

Pads

*Cork good for varying weather conditions, durable and stable with temperature, air pressure and humidity changes.

*Straubinger- multi-layered materials also very good and more stable than traditional skin pads

Recommended brands for students

Arista

Armstrong

Emerson

Gemeinhardt

Hammig

Hardy

Nagahara

Seaman

Takezawa

Yamaha

Zentner

Hammig

*I do have personal preferences for some models over others but prefer to let you decide for yourself what you like best. What works for me, may not for someone else

For more advanced students and professionals

Braun

Bulgeroni (from Italy)

Burkart

Hammig

Haynes

Keefe (formerly Brannen)

Powell

Wiessman

Yamaha

Seaman

Use of earplugs

Can help prevent hearing loss
Earplugs change perception of sound and take getting used to
There are special earplugs for musicians that are custom fit

Tips for arrangers

Piccolo sounds an octave higher than flute therefore written parts will be an octave lower than actual sound.

*See next page for an example of a piccolo part written where it sounds rather than an octave lower

Range- unlike flute, piccolo only goes to low D

Exception, Nagahara has a new model called the SoloPiccolo out with a low C

Special fingerings

Used to facilitate response in “p” passages and improve intonation

Listings can be found in

-July/August 1995 Issue of Flute Talk Magazine and

-A Basic Guide to Fingerings for the Piccolo by Steve

Tanzer--Sopranino Press

RECOMMENDED REPERTOIRE LIST FOR INTERMEDIATE PICCOLOISTS

compiled by Nan Raphael

Methods

A Basic Guide to Fingerings for the Piccolo-- Stephen Tanzer (Sopranino Press)

Learning the Piccolo-- Clement Barone (Edu-tainment)

Piccolo!Piccolo!-- Danielle Eden (Just Flutes)

For more advanced players

Exercises for the piccolo-- Jean-Louis Beaumadier (Gerard Billaudot)

The Piccolo Practice Book-- Patricia Morris (Novello)

Studium Techniki-- E. Towarnicki (PWM Ed.)

In the Limelight, Piccolo Solos and Technical Passages from the Symphonic Band Repertoire-- compiled by Nan Raphael (Flute.net

Publications)--An excellent source for selecting audition excerpts for seating challenges, and competitions, this book contains excerpts from 75 standard as well as a few not so standard pieces from the concert band repertoire

Piccolo Alone

The Fearless Whistler-- Michael Isaacson (Alry)

6/8 Dances-- Michael Isaacson (Alry)

The Little Hornpipe-- Ricky Lombardo (Alry)

Lumiere de Soleil-- Claire Durand- Racamato (Hildegard Pub. Co.)

Piccolo and Piano

Laura-- Bob Bullard (Kendor)
Piccolo Francaise-- James Christensen (Kendor)
La Piccolette-- Pierre-Max Dubois (Ed. Le Rideau Touge)
Sonata in F Major-- G.P. Telmann (Rubank)
Voluntary #1-- David Hogg (Voice of the Rockies)
The After the Holidays Song-- Michael Isaacson (Alry)
Fishlegs and Zipline-- Michael Isaacson (Alry)
Niggun-- Micheal Isaacson (Alry)
November Song-- Michael Isaacson (Alry)
March of the Bluebirds-- Leos Janacek (Edition Peters)
Wind in the Pines-- Clair W. Johnson (Rubank)
The Entertainer-- Scott Joplin (Rubank)
Passage-- Daniel Kelley (Resort Music)
Meadowlark-- Paul Koepke (Rubank)
Popinjay-- Paul Koepke (Rubank)
Acrobatics-- Jessica Daniels Kozlowski (Alry)
Winsey-- Ricky Lombardo (Lombardo Music Pub)
4 Dances-- Scott Michal (Alry)
The Picc'in Suite-- Laura Pettigrew (Alry)
Mazouk Galante-- Georges Rabol (Gerard Billaudot Ed)
Nocturne-- Martin Rokeach (Alry)
Piccolominio-- Walter Scholtes (Waterloo Music Co.)
Polka op. 22-- Dmitri Schostakovich (Edition Musicus)
Prelude and Fugue in G Major-- Dmitri Schostakovich (Leaf Publications)
2 Miniatures-- Thomas M. Schudel (Kendor)
A Night at the Opera-- Eldred Spell (Alry)
Three Part Inventions-- Soulima Stravinsky (Sopranino Press)
March Miniature-- Tchaikovsky (Alry)
Sousa Suite No. 1-- arr. Laurence Trott (Alry)
Sousa Suite No. 2-- arr. Laurence Trott (Alry)
Mountain Air-- Steven Tung and Victor Wong (Flute.Net Pub)
Tarantella Festivo-- Harold Walters (Rubank)

Two Piccolos

Piccolo Polka-- Robert Burke, Jr. (Neil A. Kjos)

Piccolo and percussion

Le Tombeau de Mireille-- Henri Tomasi (Leduc)

Where to order music

Flute World (they have the best stock of piccolo music)
29920 Orchard Lake Rd
Farmington Hills, MI 48067
Phone-248-855-0410

e-mail- flutes@fluteworld.com

Web page- fluteworld.com

Where to get more information about piccolo playing

Flute Talk Magazine

There is a column called "Lets Talk Picc" just inside the back cover.

The Flutists Quarterly- the official magazine of the National Flute Association

The Flute List- listserv@listserv.syr.edu

The National Flute Association Website- <http://www.nfaonline.org>

You can also get information on regional and local flute clubs nationwide at this website

Some outstanding recordings worth listening to...

Bittersweet Music--Susan Glaser- piccolo by Koch International Classics

In Shadow, Light--Zartouhi Dombourian-Eby, piccolo by Crystal Records

For the Birds--Laurence Trott, piccolo by Fleur De Son Classics

Piccolodeon--works for piccolo, flutes, harp and percussion

Piccolo Impressions--Danielle Eden, piccolo by ABC Broadcasting Studio

Again, the best place to find these would be Flute World

Short and Sweet-- Nan Raphael, piccolo by Prodigital Inc. --this CD can be purchased directly from Nan by emailing SoloPikolo@aol.com, through Walking Frog Records or Flute World

Considering a career in a military band?

A career in a military band can provide not only musical satisfaction but security which is not easy to find if you have aspirations to become a professional performing musician. Some bands even offer incentives for joining such as college loan repayment programs. Over the last couple of decades, military bands have gained respect in the music world by performing at music conferences and major venues worldwide as well as expanding their educational outreach programs in the schools nationwide. As a result they continue to attract better and better musicians. Competition is fierce especially for the bands in Washington, DC and the Coast Guard Band in New London, Ct.

www.geocities.com/compserbethea/militarybands.html

This website will give you a complete listing of all military bands for all of the services. To find out more about a specific band, click on it's name and you will be sent to their website. These websites contain anything you would want to know about the band- it's mission, history, concert/touring schedules, openings and audition information etc.

Following is a listing of web addresses for the special bands in Washington, DC

The President's Own Marine Band-- www.marineband.usmc.mil/

The Airforce Band-- www.usafb.com/

The Navy Band-- www.navy.mil/armyband

The Army Field Band-- www.army.mil/fieldband/index.htm

Don't forget about the Coast Guard- they have an excellent special band stationed in New London, Ct

www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/comrel/band/