

# FUNDAMENTALS

**Ervin Monroe**

## of Fine Flute Playing Made Simple

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This presentation is sponsored by Muramatsu America, the exclusive distributor for Muramatsu flutes in North America.

Ervin Monroe has played principal flute in the Detroit Symphony for thirty-eight years, making him the longest tenured principal flute player currently playing in a major American orchestra. He has numerous solo and recital recordings, as well as symphonic recordings with the Detroit Symphony under conductors such as Antal Dorati and Neemi Jarvi. He is heard more frequently on live orchestral radio broadcasts than any other flutist today.

Mr. Monroe has numerous flute publications to his credit, including arrangements and editions, as well as original compositions published by Little Piper. While serving as president of the National Flute Association, he founded *The Flutist Quarterly*, that organization's official magazine. Ervin Monroe has been featured in many musical journals including *The Instrumentalist* and *Flute Talk*. He is the flute professor at Wayne State University, and has served as visiting flute professor at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

Mr. Monroe will demonstrate a simplified approach to mastering and maintaining high performance skills as a flutist. His presentation will guide teachers and performers with easy practice steps, as well as help them with analysis of skill levels.

Throughout his presentation he will show how proper practice saves time and accomplishes more than playing the instrument for long periods but with little purpose or direction.

His approach is very practical and is presented with a sense of humor and energy. He will demonstrate many of the points he is emphasizing, and there will be a time at the end of his lecture for questions on specific concerns.

See reverse side for an outline of his presentation.

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# Fundamentals of Fine Flute Playing Made Simple-by Ervin Monroe

## I. Introduction

- A. How to save time by planning practice
- B. How to avoid destructive practice

## II. Getting a Great Tone

- A. Air support- the first ingredient
  - 1. Understanding how to breathe properly
  - 2. Basic exercises for strength and control
- B. Embouchure- the second ingredient
  - 1. Understanding the function of the embouchure
  - 2. Basic exercises for aperture shape and control
- C. Placement- the third ingredient
  - 1. Understanding proper flute placement
  - 2. Basic exercises for position and angle
  - 3. Understanding how placement affects intonation and tone

## III. Acquiring and Maintaining Great Technique

- A. Developing the finger techniques
  - 1. Proper posture and alignment
  - 2. Positioning of the fingers
  - 3. Basic exercises for proficiency
- B. Understanding the fundamentals of good tonguing
  - 1. The use of syllables
  - 2. The use of vowels
  - 3. Single tonguing-basic exercises
  - 4. Double tonguing-basic exercises
  - 5. Triple tonguing-basic exercises

## IV. Developing Good Phrasing

- A. Air flow and direction of the phrase
- B. Connecting the intervals smoothly-slurs and breath
- C. Breathing and tonguing as it relates to the phrase
- D. Intonation
  - 1. What changes pitch
  - 2. Special fingerings

## V. Developing Good Performance Habits

- A. Understanding style
- B. Working with others
  - 1. The basics of good ensemble playing
  - 2. The basics of playing with good intonation
  - 3. The importance of good personality