

THE FLUTE STREET JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLUTE STUDIO

TONYWATSON.ORG

Upcoming Events

Flute Group Lessons

Tuesdays
September 15, 29
October 13
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Group lessons are in addition to individual lessons and are for everyone. I will let you know during the week before, what we will be working on so you can be prepared.

Halloween Recital
Sunday, October 25, 2020
3:00
on Zoom

Wear your costume (or don't) and play something Halloween-y (or something not Halloween-y). Invite your friends and family. It will be a treat!



FEATURED FLUTIST

RONIN MENDELSBERG

Ronin is 5 years old and is a first year student (First Grade) in the Sycamore class at the Montessori School of Louisville. He has been playing the flute for two years. His favorite song to play on the flute is Go Tell Aunt Rhody. When he isn't playing flute, Ronin enjoys reading--especially the Magic Treehouse books--and playing Beyblade.



ZOOM!

Get the most out of your online lessons

While we are all looking forward to the time when we can return to face to face lessons, there are steps we can take to improve our online experience.

First, use the most powerful device you have for your lesson. In some cases, your phone may be better for Zoom. For most of us, a laptop or desktop computer will deliver better audio and video quality.

Then connect your device directly to the internet with an ethernet cable. Wifi tends to be less stable and often results in glitchy video and/or audio quality. Also, plug your device into a power outlet. Operating on battery power usually compromises video/audio quality.

Using headphones or earbuds will almost certainly result in better audio quality. They also prevent the echo or feedback resulting from the microphone picking up the sound of the speakers.

Make sure you are using the latest version of Zoom. There have been several updates over the last several months. Each update has brought incremental improvements to security and audio quality.

Check the settings in Zoom to maximize the musical experience. Video conferencing apps are designed for spoken conversation. Consequently, many of the sounds we make with our instruments are outside the expected volume and frequency ranges of the app. Those sounds are intentionally suppressed by the app to make spoken communication easier.

But, we do not want our flute sounds to be suppressed. So, these settings will help to improve our musical experience: In audio settings, uncheck the box to automatically adjust microphone volume; in the advanced audio settings, check "Show in-meeting option to enable original sound from microphone". Also, check the boxes to disable echo cancellation, use high fidelity music mode and use stereo audio. Then, when you return to the main screen in the meeting, find the toggle bar to "Turn On Original Sound". It usually appears in the upper left-hand corner of the screen only when the mouse is moving.

One more thing: Feel free to record your lesson. Often, we try to take notes and find we can't get every detail. Sometimes there is too much information coming too quickly to accurately write it all down. Or you might think that your teacher's comment about your unsteady tempo is unwarranted. If you have a recording, you can listen back to the lesson later and get all those details. And you can hear for yourself whether the tempo was actually steady.

If you have other ideas for improving our online lessons, send me an email at tonywatsonflute@yahoo.com

What's New at the Flute Studio?

Song of the Week

This fall we begin learning a new song each week. The song may be a familiar one or something completely new. For some flutists the songs may be easy, while others will find them challenging. The idea with the song of the week is to expand our knowledge of folk songs, patriotic songs, holiday songs and songs from various cultures and traditions around the world. The goal is not necessarily to prepare the songs for performance. So, they won't get the same detailed treatment that we give our core repertoire. But, if you like a particular song, you can always come back to it on your own or ask for more help in your lesson.

Flute Studio on You Tube

During the summer, the Flute Studio got its own You Tube Channel. It is a private channel and can only be found by this link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN2jyFU4iC9ACT1kpet46zpubdkyl2gSv>

On this channel you can find some of our core repertoire played on flutes and sometimes with piano accompaniment. Increase your ensemble playing skills by playing along with the You Tube performances. Can you match the tempo? Do your rhythms and articulations match what you hear? Have fun playing along!

A Capella App

Would you like to collaborate with your teacher on a duet? With the free A Capella App we can make a recording of two parts to a duet. You can get the printed music from your teacher or you can share a duet you have. One of us will record and send to the other who then records the second part. If you make a mistake, you just record again. Once your recording is finished, you can share with friends and family. Sound like fun? Let me know if you would like to collaborate.