

Practical Hints On Playing The Flute

by Richard Hahn

in collaboration with James D. Ployhar

Foreword

The "*Practical Hints*" series is a unique and highly informative set of books designed to answer the many important questions raised by the beginning musician as well as the more advanced student.

Each book has been prepared by a nationally known instrumental specialist and covers such vital topics as CARE AND MAINTENANCE, REEDS AND MOUTHPIECES, PLAYING POSITION, EMBOUCHURE, TUNING, BREATHING, TONGUING, TONE QUALITY and RANGE as well as the methodology of PRACTICE.

Every book contains a number of pictures along with practical playing exercises designed to rapidly improve basic musicianship.

The "*Practical Hints*" series may be used along with the FIRST DIVISION BAND COURSE, the CONTEMPORARY BAND COURSE or any other recognized band method. An appropriate book from this series should be in every young musicians' library as a companion book to the method.

The books in the "*Practical Hints*" series are for individual use only and may not be played together in a band class. Books are published separately for the following instruments:

Published for:

FLUTE
B $\flat$ CLARINET
ALTO CLARINET
BASS CLARINET
OBOE
BASSOON

ALTO SAXOPHONE
TENOR SAXOPHONE
BARITONE SAXOPHONE
CORNET/TRUMPET
FRENCH HORN
TROMBONE

BARITONE
(Euphonium)
TUBA (Bass)
PERCUSSION (Snare Drum,
Bass Drum, Timpani, Cymbals)
Mallet Percussion

About the Author



Richard Hahn is Professor of Flute at the University of Idaho. He began his career as a flutist with the Milwaukee Symphony and Milwaukee Chamber Players, and was a featured soloist with the Fine Arts String Quartet. His activities in solo and chamber music have earned him a national reputation as a performer of both early and modern compositions for the flute. Numerous appearances in major cities have netted him high praise for his virtuosity and for his unique ability to bring fresh insights to the compositions he performs.

His educational background includes Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and Bachelor of Music in Performance degrees from Washington State University and a Master of Music from the University of Wisconsin, where he studied with Robert Cole, former assistant first flutist of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and with Donald Peck, principal flutist for the Chicago Symphony.

Mr. Hahn frequently serves as an adjudicator throughout the United States and in Canada including recent appearances for the national finals of the Music Teachers National Association, for both the Young Artists and New Music competitions of the National Flute Association, and for many state and regional competitions sponsored by Music Educators National Conference.

Mr. Hahn is also well known as a maker of fine replicas of historical flutes, some of which he plays in his own recitals. Interest in these instruments has been dramatic but other demands upon his time severely restrict the time Mr. Hahn is able to devote to their construction, resulting in extensive waiting lists for persons anxious to possess one. Instruments he has completed in recent years have been distributed in Europe and South America as well as throughout the United States and Canada.

Mr. Hahn is highly acclaimed as a teacher of the flute and travels extensively to present clinics and master classes for students at all levels of experience. He has also contributed articles to educational journals, and has presented many workshops for music teachers at state, regional, and national conferences.

Mr. Hahn is also an active and highly respected member of the National Flute Association. In addition to appearing frequently at the Association's national conventions as a performer, speaker, and clinician, he has held a number of important leadership posts in the organization. He was elected to their Board of Directors for 1976-78, served as Vice President in 1979-80, as President in 1980-81, and as Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1981-82.

Contents

Introduction	3
Unit I Assembling the Flute	3
Unit II Care and Maintenance of the Flute	5
Unit III Playing Position	9
Unit IV Embouchure and Tone	11
Unit V Breathing	15
Unit VI Tuning and Dynamics	17
Unit VII Vibrato	19
Unit VIII Articulation	20
Unit IX Finger Techniques	23
Unit X Practicing	26
Unit XI Selected Etudes	29

Unit III : Playing Position

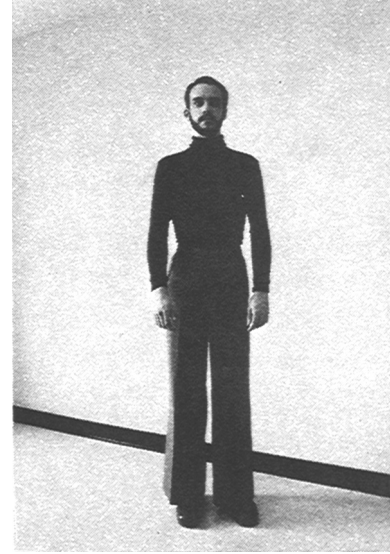
In order to play the flute properly, you must begin with proper body position. While either sitting or standing you must position yourself in a way that allows you to breathe efficiently and in which you have flexibility in your hands and fingers so that you can move freely over the keys.

Always sit or stand in an erect posture so that you feel tall. To learn what this feels like follow the instructions which accompany the photos which follow.

Basic Posture



1



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1. Stand with arms straight above your head, reaching as far as possible.
2. *While holding your breath*, drop your arms down to your sides. The position your shoulders are now in is the proper position for playing the flute while either sitting or standing.

Basic Arm Position

The following series of pictures show the basic playing position from three different angles. Examine each of the photographs for the proper playing position.



1



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