

Flute Studio Syllabus:

3 Key Areas of Development:

- 1) Tone
- 2) Technique
- 3) Musicality

TONE:

The flute is merely an extension of our voice, which is why tone development is so important. We work on tone development through a variety of exercises including: 1) long tones and related exercises; 2) various “extended” techniques, such as harmonics, whistle tones, singing and playing; 3) melodic studies; 4) breathing exercises; 5) embouchure and posture; 6) vibrato; 7) air support and intensity.

Having a good tone is central to all of flute playing, so we treat everything we do as if it were a tone exercise.

TECHNIQUE:

Building solid technique is important for any musician. In addition to talking about fundamentals such as posture and hand position, we will work on improving our technique through a variety of exercises including: 1) scales and other finger exercises; 2) method book exercises and/or etudes; 3) double and triple tonguing and other articulation exercises.

MUSICALITY:

We will put our tone and technique exercises into context by learning pieces from the traditional classical musical repertoire. In addition to putting all the skills we learn into context, we will work on how to take those skills and turn them into music. Key ideas that will be explored include: 1) dynamics; 2) intonation; 3) breath control; 4) phrasing; 5) tone colors and vibrato; 6) ear training (listening to harmonies to make phrasing decisions, etc.). We will also increase our knowledge of music history by learning about the composers we study and the time period they composed in. We will also work on ensemble playing (flute and piano, and flute duets) to improve sight-reading skills, communication, and listening skills.

Required Materials:

Flute (in good working order) and cleaning materials

Notebook

Pencil

(Required Materials Continued)

Trevor Wye Tone Book (available through Sarah)

17 Daily Exercises by Taffanel and Gaubert (for intermediate/advanced players)

Method Book/Etude Book, as assigned

Flute Solos and Duets, as assigned

Metronome (apps also available for smart phones)

Tuner (apps also available for smart phones)

Music Stand (for practicing at home)

Mirror

Practicing:

Consistency is key. It is far better to practice a few days a week than it is to practice for a long time the day before your lesson. While it may be hard to fit practicing in with all your other activities and homework/work, it is very important to try and establish a consistent practice routine if you want to make progress in your flute playing. Playing the flute is very different from *practicing* the flute. It is important to work on the specific areas that are pointed out in lessons instead of just playing things through one or two times. Students will get specific instructions on *how* to practice at their first lesson.

Practice Recommendations (individual recommendations will be made for each student as each student is unique and has different goals):

Beginners: 20 minutes a day, 6 days a week

Intermediate: 30-45 minutes a day, 6 days a week

Advanced: 60-120 minutes a day, 6 days a week