

Mary L. McNally
Intonation
Flute Pedagogy
Riner
Due 4/22/11

Intonation

Among flute players, intonation has a tendency to be neglected in the practice room. The goal of the following three exercises is to give the dedicated flautist specific guidelines for working on intonation. In order for these exercises to work, certain key points must be addressed.

1. Airspeed- Must stay strong and consistent throughout the process of playing. Changing air is often employed to "cheat" out notes at the extremes of the range. This is a HIGHLY detrimental habit that will always cause intonation problems.
2. Cork- The cork in the head joint should be checked with the indicated line on the cleaning rod to ensure correct placement.
3. Placement- The lower lip should usually cover a fourth to one third of the tone hole. Neglecting this will cause constant sharp or flat pitch.
4. Tuning- BEFORE PLAYING tune A2 to A=440
5. Tuner- All of the following exercises **require** a tuner and a metronome
6. Practice- daily in a SLOW and METHODICAL pattern while remaining alert and observant to intonation.

The first exercise practices "landing" on a note in tune both "cold" and from chromatic leading tones. The second exercise allows the flautist to identify and practice good intonation on long tones involving crescendos and decrescendos. The third and final exercise practices good intonation through extreme register changes using a flexible embouchure and steady airstream. The goal is to identify trouble spots/notes and learn how to adjust while playing so that these listening and embouchure skills can be applied to repertoire.

Intonation Warm-up #1

Instructions:

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- 1.) Using a tuner play the first note of each group and ensure that it is in tune
- 2.) Continue the rest of the group on the same breath checking the final note with the tuner
- 3.) **PLAY SLOWLY and CAREFULLY (use metronome)**

Thoughtfully ♩ = 80

Flute

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20

Thoughtfully ♩ = 80

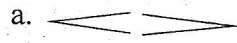
21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28
29 30 31 32

Intonation Warm-Up #2

Instructions:

McNally

1.) Use tuner playing each note carefully using the following treatments



2.) Carefully watch the tuner while playing each note with the above dynamic contrast making sure intonation remains accurate through the end of pitch production.

Thoughtfully ♩ = 80

Flute

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19

Thoughtfully ♩ = 80

20 21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29

30 31 32 33 34

Warm-Up #3

Instructions:

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- 1.) Using a tuner, play the first pitch of each group
- 2.) Check to ensure correct intonation, then slur to the upper note of each group
- 3.) Check the pitch of the upper note
- 4.) If the upper note is not in tune adjust the shape of the embouchure and oral cavity (depth and width).
- 5.) After finding good embouchure placement for the upper note go back and try the same group again remembering to find the same good placement for the upper note.
- 6.) After successfully navigating a group of notes several times while maintaining intonation move on to the next group.

Listening Carefully ♩ = 80

Flute

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15

16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25

* This exercise is derived from suggestions given by flautist Jennifer Cluff on her website <http://www.jennifercluff.com/tuning.htm>