

ABSOLUTE FLUTE

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Welcome to the new half-termly music newsletter all about flute!

Welcome to my new half-termly flute newsletter! Here I will be sharing tips and topics for the half term ahead, music to listen to and information about the wider music community!

I hope you have had a lovely half term break and enjoyed some of the sunshine that made an appearance!

The final half term of the year can be a busy time with summer preparations, social events and many school exams for students coming up. This can make it a challenging time to stay motivated with practice but is a great time to develop really great musical habits to make the most of limited practice time. Below I will share my top 5 practice tips for the term as well as some ideas to keep you motivated in the upcoming months.

My hope for this newsletter is to inspire, motivate and add something new to your flute journey. I would also love to include shout outs for anything you have done that you are proud of this half term - please let me know if you would like to be included (perhaps an exam passed, a performance taken or even a piece/ technique you are proud to have mastered!).

I will also include opportunities that are coming up and concerts that are worth noting so please check this out where you can.

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

Victoria Heath

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Top 5 Tips for Music Practice

1. **Grab a few minutes wherever you can** - a few minutes is better than none! (When dinner is cooking, when waiting for everyone to be ready, during a TV ad break!)
2. **Practice small sections of your music**, do not just play it through. We are all culprits of this but as tempting as it may be, it is better practice to take a challenging 2-4 bars and play it correctly 5x than play the whole piece.
3. **Warm up well.** Warm ups can do as much good as practicing a piece if you do it right. Why not play a slow scale working on tone? What about playing with dynamic variation on a long note? How about tonguing? Find a couple warm ups that tackle these areas and you will have started your practice really strongly.
4. **Set a goal each practice.** It is much more effective to have a goal to reach each practice rather than playing without a clear aim.
5. **Write on your music!** Please please annotate your music - circle that note you keep getting wrong, write in the definition of words, use highlight strips/ pens to highlight the hardest passages. Do not be afraid of writing on the music if it helps you (some of the best musicians' music looks like the picture above!). My favourite moveable highlight strips are these: <https://www.ryman.co.uk/snopake-tab-highlighters-45x12mm-125-sheets-1>

Shout Out Spot!

This spot is for shout outs for anything you or your child have done that you are proud of this month - please let me know if you would like to be included.

Good luck to everyone taking exams this half term!



Exam Details

- In Person Exams for ABRSM and Trinity are no longer available to book this half term.
- ABRSM Performance (Online) exams can be booked any time and videos submitted within a month.
- Trinity Digital can be booked any time and videos submitted within a month.
- Trinity have just released a new, pieces-only option for digital exams. This offers a pathway for those who prefer to showcase their musical achievements through a programme of repertoire instead of a combination of pieces and technical work.





Monthly Music

See below for a few music listening recommendations:

Something classic:

Chaminade's Concertino

<https://youtu.be/sRbqOua7rEo?si=3rrITH0tRZqU8USQ>

Something unknown:

Echoes of the Ancients by Sarah Bassingthwaighte

https://youtu.be/oYLJQSjFGWQ?si=RWNPODnroZ0_l1lm

Something a bit different:

Greg Pattillo "Beatbox Flute" Fur Elise/Jumpin' Jumpin'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoiMgCOuG8Y>

Events

Electric Earth Orchestra

Victoria is joining with The Electric Earth Orchestra on the 14th June 7:00pm for an exciting concert combining music, electronics and nature.

The first set with Victoria (flute) and Anna (harp) will feature pieces by Dernhard, Takemitsu and Bassingthwaighte. This will be followed by an interactive plant sound installation under the church.

The second half will feature the Electric Earth Orchestra's new album with soundscapes and live music written to reflect nature and world sounds.

Tickets can be found here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/electric-earth-orchestra-tickets-871209550217>

EFlute Fest

EFlute is back this July with their online flute festival!

This festival will be from the 9th-16th July and will feature live daily warm-ups, master classes, performances, group lessons, competitions and workshops. It's a fabulous opportunity to meet players of all ages and, if you can't make all the classes, they are available online for 30 days to watch!

More information here: <https://www.e flute.net/festival>

Events at The Conservatoire

There are a handful of events at The Conservatoire over the next half term including the Free on Friday concerts at 1:30pm in the Art Studio.

<https://www.conservatoire.org.uk/events>

Just Flutes Live

Just flutes are hosting a music day for adults on the 23rd June with Chris Hankin. This includes flute choir, chamber groups, a concert and more!

<https://www.justflutes.com/workshops/just-flutes-live-chamber-music-day-adults-chris-hankin-2024-1#gref>

Thank you for reading!

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