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Peaceful Spirit Flutes has moved

We are now located in Spruce Grove, Alberta

Our new phone number is 780-913-2036

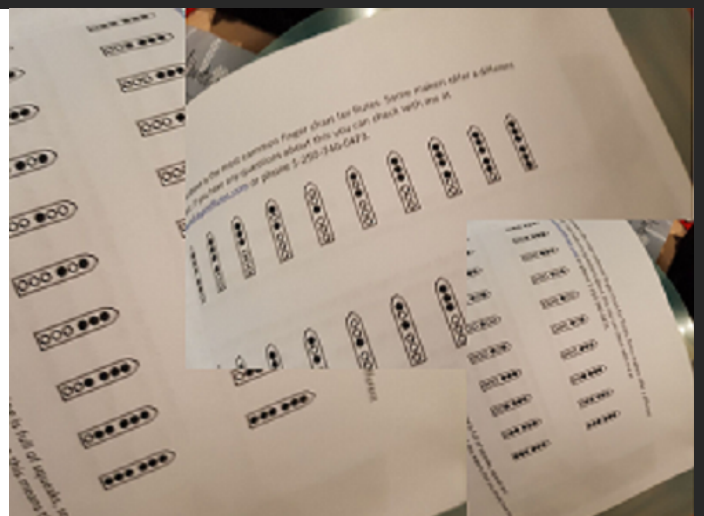


What is after the basic scale?

What is after the Basic Scale?

Explore, explore and explore more to see, hear and feel how the sounds seem to work together.

Playing a flute has a lot to do with controlling your breath and controlling your fingering of the



holes. My experience with newer players is they often want to go fast before they have mastered slow and they take on playing too many notes and get lost along the way as the musical and muscle memory is just developing.

Experiment with 3 to 4 notes:

- Play them in different sequences
- Play them slow
- Play them fast
- Play them short and choppy
- Play them smooth and flowing
- Mix up long slow notes with short choppy notes
- Play them like you are asking a question or having a conversation
- End a note with an exclamation point
- End a note with a sigh
- See if you can the ending of a note to just hang in the air and pause a bit longer before you start the next note
- See if you can make them sound happy or sad or any other emotion you can think of.
- Start with the softest breath you can on each of the notes and then push more breath through to go past the sweet spot and make the sound crack
- Lift your fingers off the holes two or three at a time

When you play around with the tips I suggest you will begin to connect more intimately with how you and the flute produce these beautiful sounds and begin to add more texture and colour to the sounds and songs you are creating.

Playing with Back Tracks

If you are out there playing on your own and have not been able to connect to another flute player or other musical type a great way to explore and develop your playing is to play to a back track. A back track is a recording of music or rhythms usually instrumental or drum tracks. I have been able to create some very lovely pieces by using back tracks in several different ways. Some musicians are creating backtracks to their own music that you can buy and others like Clint Goss and the late Stephen deRuby create backtracks that can be used with Native American Flutes.

For easier playing it is best to buy the track in the same key as your flute or in a key that you can harmonize with. This is less of a concern when you are buying straight drum tracks. If you have an opportunity to listen to parts of the track before you buy or download that will give you a better idea of whether it works with your flutes.



If you are new to playing to a back track choosing backtracks with simple rhythms are often easier to start out with and play along to. An excellent percussion CD to start with is Stephen DeRuby's Rhythms To Accompany the Native American Flute. It offers a wide range of sounds and rhythms that you can easily follow along to.

Before you buy a CD or compilation of back tracks, check to see if all of the songs on the CD are for one key. Backtrack CD's will sometimes have a variety of songs recorded in different keys so you do want to make sure that the CD does have a song that your flute can play along with.

Jonny Lipford has one back track with the same songs but recorded so that you can play in the different keys of the flutes (at the time of writing these are available for digital download for \$5.00)

Clint Goss has created a wonderful set of Jam Tracks for each key of the flute. I really enjoy playing to these different CD's. They are more complicated with changing rhythms and key changes in the middle of songs providing interesting opportunities to explore.

Another interesting resource to check out

is <http://brokensky.biz/backingtracks/>

This link is generously provided by William Hopper, a member of the facebook page, Native

American Flute Musicians. There is a very wide range of tracks to play along to.

Try connecting various techniques to playing along. If a rhythm or musical phrase is long and slow, feel what fits with it. You can follow along with the rhythm or see if you could play a faster counter point to it or short fast notes. You can play along to a track or you can add bits of sounds for impact that work with the piece. I like to think of my playing as adding a story along to the music so I incorporate pauses for effect and try different embellishments. However, you decide to explore, playing along to back tracks can enhance your flute playing journey



Remember Your Free Lesson

If you have purchased a flute from Peaceful Spirit flutes remember it does include a one hour lesson. Contact Terry Mack, tmack@peacefulspiritflutes.com or phone [1-780-913-2036](tel:1-780-913-2036)

The lesson can be in person or using video software like Skype or Facetime but you do have to contact me to arrange it.

Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada

Phone: [1-780-913-2036](tel:1-780-913-2036)

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