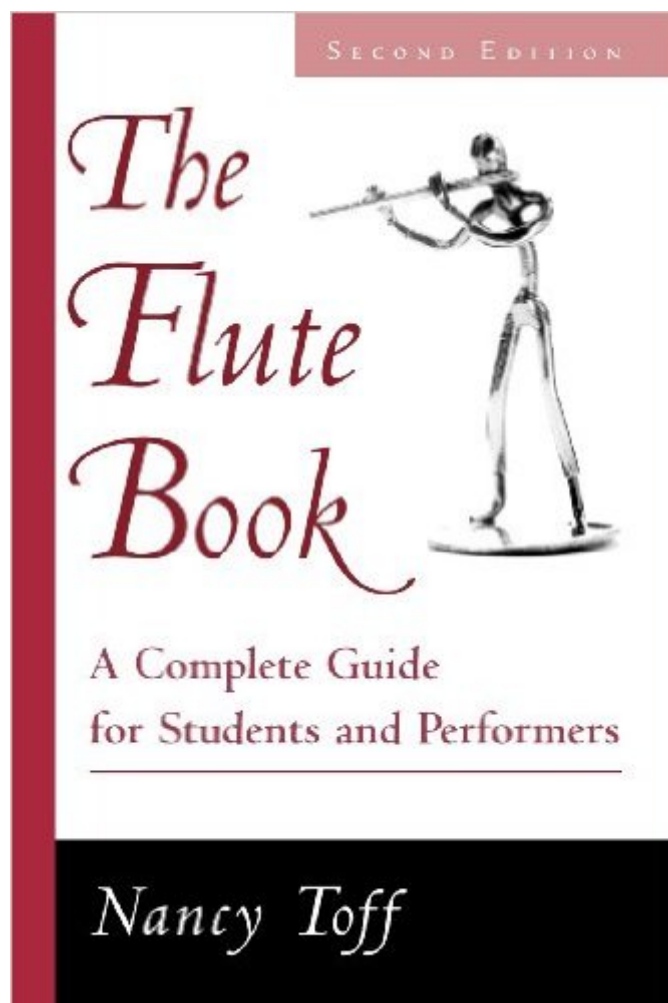


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The Flute Book: A Complete Guide For Students And Performers



Synopsis

Teachers and flutists at all levels will welcome the return of Nancy Toff's unique one-stop guide to the flute and its music. Organized into four main parts--The Instrument, Performance, The Music, and Repertoire Catalog--the book begins with a description of the instrument and its making, offers information on choosing and caring for a flute, sketches a history of the flute, and discusses differences between members of the flute family. In the Performance section, readers learn about breathing, tone, vibrato, articulation, technique, style, performing, and recording. In the extensive analysis of flute literature that follows, Toff places individual pieces in historical context. The book ends with a comprehensive catalog of solo and chamber repertoire, and includes appendices with fingering charts as well as lists of current flute manufacturers, repair shops, sources for flute music and books, and flute clubs and related organizations worldwide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent resource. It has whole chapters on breathing (including exercises and circular breathing), tone, vibrato, articulation, technique, style, and performance (including repertoire catalogue information). The recording section lists catalogues, play along tips, and how to make you own recordings. There are four chapters covering music of the Baroque, Classic, Romantic, and Modern Eras. The book is worth every penny, if only for the appendices, which include listings of flute manufacturers, repair shops, periodicals, music and book source information, and flute clubs

and related organizations, all with addresses, phone numbers, and a few E-mail or web page addresses. The 153 page repertoire catalogue is excellent, and lists publishers, so you can find just about any classical flute work easily. The extensive selected bibliography is also of interest, especially historically, and is divided by topic, such as performance and technique, the instrument, biographies, or eras. The section on the instrument and its care includes drawings and photographs. The amount of research that must have gone into this work is amazing. The bibliography runs ten pages. The index is excellent and thorough. With regards to the sections on performance, breathing, etc., it would have been nice if a CD with examples and more drawings were included. Maybe this could be developed later to go along with the book. Hopefully, the author will also write a book about popular flute music, with such a handy repertoire catalogue and web page addresses and flute links, including .com. This book is so great, I just ordered a second copy as a gift.

Nancy Toff has left nothing out of this grand book -- the history, anatomy, selection, and care of the flute in its popular and more esoteric forms; an extensive discussion on the development of not only classical and modern technique, but also personal style; building a repertoire and creating or finding performance opportunities; the history of flute music, and authoritative suggestions for building a sheet and recorded music library; countless charts and reference materials -- all has been included that a flute player, whether amateur or professional, student or teacher, could and would want to know and reference in the course of their playing career. And if one happens to find anything not included, I feel confident that Ms. Toff would personally see to correcting the matter immediately. An absolute must; look no further, oh wearied flutists (as Ms. Toff insists you are to be called, and not flautists, based on a well-researched etymological conclusion), for your redemption is at hand.

Nancy Toff does an exceptional job with this complete and well-rounded reference book for books. Any information that one could hope for about playing the instrument, buying the instrument, or listening to the instrument is included. The author also does well to give many perspectives on many flute issues, reasoning them out for the reader. The second half of the book on the history of many composers is exhaustive and complete. The catalog of repertoire pieces in a table format with available publishers is invaluable for any performer. Really a must own.

I require this book in my flute pedagogy courses at McNeese State University. It is well-researched, easy to read and comprehend, and has wonderful appendices of literature and resources for further research. Nancy is a fine scholar, and is extremely well-respected in the world of flutists.

Nancy Toff took a while to revise and update This Edition (1985, 1996) - would've helped if provided a forewarning that the 3rd edition is just around the corner "on it's way in 2012"! I had just purchased this in August/ Sept '11 only to discover this week that the Third Edition is on it's way, scheduled for release early next year and that pre-orders are being offered on .com. Would not have bought otherwise, rather preferring to borrow till new is out. Nevertheless Toff's book IS THE COMPLETE GUIDE indeed and a really useful all rounder Handbook for Beginners, Students as well as Performers - all in all a comprehensive introduction and detailed education about the instrument, past present and future, with quite detailed references on playing methods & techniques. NOT UNLIKE James Galway's "Flute" (Yehudi Menuhin's series, 1982) - except it is updated and also comes with a comprehensive Flute Music Catalog and useful appendices listed below. Of 495 pages, 200 pages are dedicated to the entire Flute Classical Repertoire catalogued & categorized into the 4 main eras: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern. There is also a catalogue on Study Materials covering Methods, Technical Studies & Etudes, Operatic & Orchestral. Useful for teachers and professionals. Appendices include following Lists: Fingering Charts, Flute Manufacturers, Repair Shops, Music Shops, Useful Periodicals, Flute Clubs & Associations - US & international. I've been playing the flute since August this year. Each time I read this, I find that a new dimension of understanding and awareness opens up to me, as I progress in practice. Great reference resource to have on hand as one embarks on the journey of flute discovery. A REWARDING READ & REFER.

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