

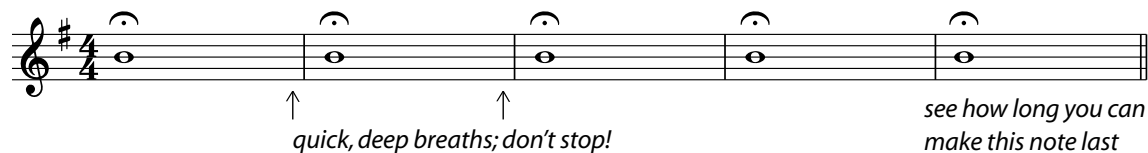
Warm-up exercises

Although this book is written for the classical Western flute, many of the styles represented belong to older traditional instruments. To hear these instruments being played, search online for the following: Kevin Crawford (Irish wooden flute); Hans Fredrik Jacobsen (Norwegian willow flute); Kudsi Erguner (Arabic ney flute); Yu Xunfa (Chinese dizi flute); Theodosii Spassov (Bulgarian kaval flute); and Dr Natesan Ramani (South Indian venu).

1. Guanabara Bay

(a) BREATHING PRACTICE

In this piece you'll need to take a big deep breath before each phrase. Remember to support the sound from the diaphragm. To increase your breathing capacity and diaphragm control, practise a series of five notes (B is a good one to start with), taking a quick, deep breath between each one (as if someone has just given you a fright). Drop your jaw as you breathe in. Try to make each note as long as possible—see if you can make the last note as long as the first one.



(b) PHRASING AND TONGUING

This piece should sound smooth and relaxed; each phrase should ideally be played in one breath. Play this exercise with your metronome set to ♩ = 108. How many bars can you play in one breath? Can you manage more than the four written here? When this sounds really good, try it again, this time tonguing the notes. The tonguing should be very gentle: 'dah dah dah' instead of 'te te te'. Try to make it sound almost as smooth as it does with a slur; don't stop the air between notes.



2. Shanghai Rickshaw Ride

(a) PENTATONIC SCALES

Traditional Chinese music is based on pentatonic (5-note) scales. Try playing the two pentatonic scales used in this piece:

D minor pentatonic scale



D major pentatonic scale



(b) ACTIVITY IDEAS

- The black notes on a piano form a pentatonic scale. Try making up a tune on the piano just using these notes; it's easy, even if you don't play the piano. Hold down the sustaining pedal and listen to the sound.
- Make up your own pentatonic melody on your flute using the notes of one of the scales above.