



Listen!

Learn to Sing Through Your Flute

An Interactive Experience

Tone, Vibrato, Color, Phrasing

by

Don Bailey

<http://donbailey.net>

Listen! is about active versus passive listening. The class is an interactive experience that will enhance one's awareness of tone, vibrato, and phrasing – the goal being to allow the flutist to sing freely through the instrument. Referencing many exercises in Marcel Moyse's *De la Sonorité, Tone Development Through Interpretation*, and *24 Little Melodic Studies* students participate in exercises that will develop their listening skills and teach them how to control their use of breath and vibrato.



Designed for serious flute players, including professionals:

- Participants sight-read simple melodies.
- Audience secretly charts on paper when performers use vibrato and when they don't.
- A series of imitative vibrato exercises draws participants' awareness to their tone and air stream.
- Returning to our melody, we strip it of all nuance - vibrato, dynamics, and direction.
- We add nuance one variable at a time. My students like to say, "**LET'S MOYSE IT!**"
- Once "Moysed", we compare with the original.

"Don and I have often talked about vibrato and have been surprised to share such similar thoughts. To me, it's a seasoning, to be applied strategically, in varying intensities as appropriate, not to be spread over everything."

Scott Cantrell, classical music critic, The Dallas Morning News

Time permitting, we apply this method to operatic arias.

- Participants sight-read operatic arias without knowing the words.
- We add/translate words to lend meaning to the aria.
- We listen to recordings of the aria sung by renowned singers and observe the liberties they take with their phrasing, which is dictated by the words.
- Drawing upon all our insights, we play the arias again and compare our final interpretation with our first.

Listen! is not intended to prescribe a particular way to play the flute, but rather to empower the student's application of nuance with wisdom and good taste.