



# Listen!

*Learn to Sing Through Your Flute*

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**An Interactive Experience**

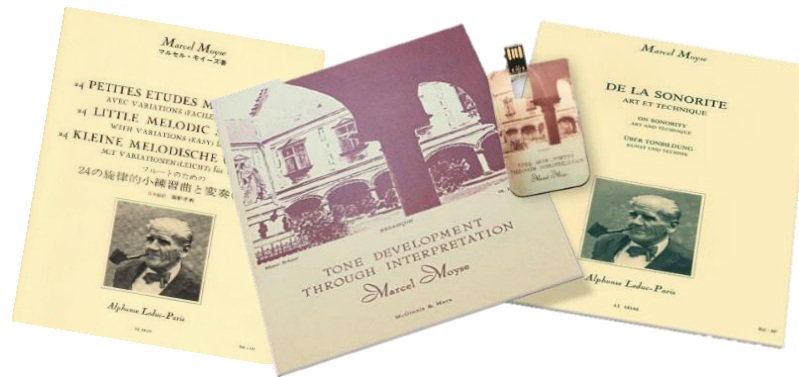
Tone, Vibrato, Color, Phrasing

by

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**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.

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**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.