

Piccolo Perspectives

by

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Repertoire

Golden age of the piccolo-late 1800s- early 1900s- hundreds of "concert in the park" style solos written, many of which have been resurrected after being out of print for many years

Movement to promote the piccolo as a solo instrument over the last 30 years has resulted in a wealth of new repertoire especially written for the instrument

Who should play piccolo?

Anyone who has a very good ear who wants to dedicate time to practicing

In band or orchestra, one of the strongest players in the section as it is a solo part and requires confidence

Placement of the piccolo in band

Best in second row next to the Eb Clarinet player.

Conductors don't necessarily hear the same balance that is heard out in the hall so placement further away from the conductor is better

Role of the piccolo in band

icing on the cake as highest voice in band

Adds color, humor and at times lyricism

Differences between flute and piccolo

Just because one can play flute well, doesn't mean they can play piccolo well

Differences in response and intonation

Some upper register can be flat on piccolo as opposed to flute

Smaller margin of error for pitch on piccolo

Placement on lip higher than on flute

Demands more endurance and strength

Use of air-not as much is required on piccolo. Sometimes necessary to expel air while playing as oboe players often do

How flute playing helps piccolo playing

Keeps embouchure more relaxed

Technique

How piccolo playing helps flute playing

Builds endurance especially in upper register

Facilitates soft playing especially in upper register

Use of vibrato

Use sparingly especially in tutti passages for better blend

Vibrato is generally narrower on piccolo than on flute

Thumbport for piccolo- excellent aid for right thumb position

Available through ABA music, Flute World

Special fingerings

Used to facilitate response in soft passages and improve intonation

A Basic Guide to Fingerings for the Piccolo-Steve Tanzer- Sopranino Press

The Complete Piccolo- Jan Gippo

Use of earplugs

Changes perception of sounds so they take getting used to

There are special earplugs for musicians. Contact your local audiologist.

Audiology Unlimited -located in Upper Marlboro MD

e-mail- earlady@earthlink.net, phone- 301-780-6770

A less expensive alternative- Sonic \$16.00

Better than foam or plastic earplugs

Instrument Care

Swabs, ungummed cigarette paper, piccolo flag-(best for getting water out of inside edge of headjoint), BG cleaning cloth

Almond oil for wood instruments

Regular maintenance

Choosing an instrument

How much do you want to pay?

Metal vs wood

Metal-good for marching band, generally brighter, shriller sound

Wood-mellower and preferred by professionals

A third good alternative-composite

Mellower than metal and wears well in all weather conditions

Reasonably priced

Bore shape

Conical-smaller at foot end, provides more uniform sound throughout

range

Cylindrical- as implies, same width throughout-easier response in upper register, but thinner sounding in low register

Pads

Cork-excellent for varying weather conditions, durable and stable with temperature, air pressure and humidity changes.

Drawback, they absorb a lot of water. Frequent swabbing prevents water buildup

Valentino Greenback pads- variety of materials, long lasting

Straubinger- multilayered synthetic materials make these more stable than traditional skin pads

Play test for even scale, even response in all registers,

Try all headjoint cuts when there are options

Recommended Brands

For Students

Arista

Armstrong

Boston Legacy

Brio- \$14-1600.00 composite or silver (Gemeinhardt)

Briolette-grenadilla, high wave head, silver clad keys

Dean Yang- \$1800.00

Di Zhao- DZP 100-ABS resin, silver plated mechanism and headjoint

DZP 201- Grenadilla wood w/ silver plated mechanism

Options- Silver head, silver head w/gold riser, C# trill, D# roller

Emerson

Flute Masters Co.-Japan wave or trad \$5700.00

Gemeinhardt-in silver, plastic and wood

Roy Seaman now made by Gemeinhardt

Resona by Burkart-\$1795-1880

Jupiter

Piper- composite of grenadilla and other materials, "wash and wear". \$1450.00

Nagahara has a piccolo in the works

New Voice from Guo-comes in many colors

Orpheus- Orpheo, grenadilla, split E, silver-plated keys- \$960.00

Pearl PFP- approx. \$1,000 through a dealer

Powell- Sonare \$7-900.00 (through a dealer)

Roy Seaman-Storm (made by Gemeinhardt)--all weather piccolo

available with wave or straight headjoint

Solexa- by Ho Fan Lee around \$800.00

Symphony from Xinhaidi Musical Instruments (China)

Trevor James- Performer (\$1900)and Recital (\$2500)Models

Yamaha

Advanced student-professional (approx-\$2500.00-\$5500.00)

Braun- also available with low C

Bulgeroni

Burkart Phelan

Finda-Czech Republic, rosewood or grenadilla, trad or wave headjoints

Hammig- new in Rosewood

Haynes

Josef from Japan-2 models Uguisu and Hibari, 4 headjoint styles, grenadilla, moopane or pink ivory

Keefe (formerly Brannen)

Powell

Roy Seaman (Gemeinhardt) (also available with wave headjoint)

Weissman

Headjoint specialists

David Chu

Leonard Lopatin- new on the market

Mancke

Eldred Spell

Jeffrey Wiessman

Where to purchase instruments

Your local dealer

Flute World, Flute Specialists, Flute Center of New York,

Flutistry, WoodwindBrasswind, JL Smith, for new and used instruments

Flute Network--www.flutent.com or jan@flutenet.com

Some big names in the piccolo world-

Christine Beard, Jean-Louis Beaumaudier, Lois Bills-Herbine, Zart

Dombourian-Eby, Danielle Eden, Lior Eitan, Mary Kay Fink, Jan Gippo,

Susan Glaser, Sarah Jackson, Patrick Healy, Regina Helcher, Walfred Kujala, Nicola Mazzanti, Kate Presia-Shaub, Laurie Sokoloff, Laurence Trott, Jeffery Zook

RECOMMENDED REPERTOIRE LIST FOR
INTERMEDIATE PICCOLOISTS

Methods

A Basic Guide to Fingerings for the Piccolo-- Stephen Tanzer (Sopranino Press)

Learning the Piccolo-- Clement Barone (Edu-tainment)

Piccolo!Piccolo!-- Danielle Eden (Just Flutes)

140 Short Exercises and Studies- Tulou/Beaumadier Gerard Billaudot Ed.

For more advanced players

Exercises for the piccolo-- Jean-Louis Beaumadier (Gerard Billaudot)

The Piccolo Practice Book-- Patricia Morris (Novello)

Studium Techniki-- E. Towarnicki (PWM Ed.)

Orchestral Excerpts for the Piccolo- Jack Wellbaum

In the Limelight, Piccolo Solos and Technical Passages from the Symphonic Band Repertoire-- compiled by Nan Raphael (Flute.net Publications)

Excellent source for selecting audition excerpts for seating challenges, competitions, military band auditions

Contains excerpts from 75 standard and not so standard pieces from the concert band repertoire

Piccolo Alone

Ariel- Allan Blank (Falls House Press)

A Piccolo Celebration-- Carson Cooman (MMB Music, Inc.)

The Fearless Whistler-- Michael Isaacson (Alry)

6/8 Dances-- Michael Isaacson (Alry)

6 Preludes- David Loeb

The Little Hornpipe-- Ricky Lombardo (Alry)

Lumiere de Soleil-- Claire Durand- Racamato (Hildegard Pub. Co.)

Farndale Dances- Alan Rideout (Emerson Ed.)

Three Dance Pieces- Klaus Roy (Alry Pub.)

Walking Songs- Gary Schocker (Presser)

Piccolo and Piano

Sonata Piccola- PDQ Bach (Theodore Presser Co.)
Laura-- Bob Bullard (Kendor)
Piccolo Americana- James Christensen (Kendor)
Piccolo Francaise-- James Christensen (Kendor)k
Piccol O' Reilly--James Christensen (Kendor)
Chanson Gaie- Johannes Donjon Gerard Billaudot
La Piccolette-- Pierre-Max Dubois (Ed. Le Rideau Touge)
Fantasy- Willard Elliot (Southern Music)
Pastorale et Danse- Maurice Faillenot Ed Robert Martin, B.P.
Sonata in F Major-- G.P. Telmann (Rubank)
Pieces for Piccolo-- Joseph Gething (Broadbent & Dunn)
Berceuse- Paul-Agricole Genin (Billaudot)
Pesky Piccolo- Eric Gross
American Suite- Frank Hannaway (Frank Hannaway)
Voluntary #1-- David Hogg (Voice of the Rockies)
The After the Holidays Song-- Michael Isaacson (Alry)
Fishlegs and Zipline-- Michael Isaacson (Alry)
Niggun-- Micheal Isaacson (Alry)
November Song-- Michael Isaacson (Alry)
March of the Bluebirds-- Leos Janacek (Edition Peters)
Wind in the Pines-- Clair W. Johnson (Rubank)
The Entertainer-- Scott Joplin (Rubank)
Passage-- Daniel Kelley (Resort Music)
Meadowlark-- Paul Koepke (Rubank)
Popinjay-- Paul Koepke (Rubank)
Acrobatics-- Jessica Daniels Kozlowski (Alry)
Winsey-- Ricky Lombardo (Lombardo Music Pub)
4 Dances-- Scott Michal (Alry)
The Plcc'in Suite-- Laura Pettigrew (Alry)
Mazouk Galante-- Georges Rabol (Gerard Billaudot Ed)
Nocturne-- Martin Rokeach (Alry)
Piccolominio-- Walter Scholtes (Waterloo Music Co.)
Polka op. 22-- Dmitri Schostakovich (Edition Musicus)
Prelude and Fugue in G Major-- Dmitri Schostakovich (Leaf Publications)
2 Miniatures-- Thomas M. Schudel (Kendor)
Hill Songs--Gary Schocker (Presser)
A Night at the Opera-- Eldred Spell (Alry)

Three Part Inventions-- Soulima Stravinsky (Sopranino Press)
March Miniature-- Tchaikovsky (Alry)
Sousa Suite No. 1-- arr. Laurence Trott (Alry)
Sousa Suite No. 2-- arr. Laurence Trott (Alry)
Mountain Air-- Steven Tung and Victor Wong (Flute.Net Pub)
Tarantella Festivo-- Harold Walters (Rubank)
Pipeaux 1934 Various composers (Ed. de L'Oiseau Lyre)

Two Piccolos

Piccolo Polka-- Robert Burke, Jr. (Neil A. Kjos)
Elkarrizketa- Roberto Casado

Piccolo and percussion

Le Tombeau de Mireille-- Henri Tomasi (Leduc)

Where to order music

Flute World (they have the best stock of piccolo music)
29920 Orchard Lake Rd
Farmington Hills, MI 48067
Phone-248-855-0410
e-mail- flutes@fluteworld.com
Web page- fluteworld.com

Where to get more information about piccolo playing

The Complete Piccolo-a comprehensive guide to fingerings, repertoire and history,
Compiled and edited by Jan Gippo Published by Theodore Presser Co.

Flute Talk Magazine

There is a column called "Lets Talk Picc" just inside the back cover.

The Flutists Quarterly- the official magazine of the National Flute Association

The Flute List- listserv@listserv.syr.edu

The National Flute Association Website- <http://www.nfaonline.org>

You can also get information on regional and local flute clubs nationwide
at this website

Piccolo HQ Website, run by Christine Beard

The Piccoloist.com

Some outstanding recordings worth listening to...

A Night with the Piccolo- Nicola Mazzanti
Bittersweet Music--Susan Glaser- piccolo by Koch International Classics
Canto del Piccolo- Patrick Healy XXI 21 Productions. Inc.
Graffiti / Prebliski- Matjaz Debeljak
In Shadow, Light--Zartouhi Dombourian-Eby, piccolo by Crystal Records
For the Birds--Laurence Trott, piccolo by Fleur De Son Classics
From Rags to Riches, Laurence Trott
Le Merle Blanc- Nola Exel
Piccolo Four Hands, Nan Raphael/Nancy Mulholland, music for 2 piccolos Piccalota
Productions
Piccolo Passion, Jean-Louis Beaumadier
Piccolodeon--works for piccolo, flutes, harp and percussion
Piccolo Impressions--Danielle Eden, piccolo by ABC Broadcasting Studio
Short and Sweet, Hands Across the Seas, Tout Sweet-- Nan Raphael, piccolo by
Piccalota Productions - these CDs can be purchased directly from Nan at
SoloPikolo@aol.com, through Walking Frog Records or Flute World
Take Wing- Lois Bliss Herbine

Considering a career in a military band?

A career in a military band can provide not only musical satisfaction but security which is not easy to find if you have aspirations to become a professional performing musician. Some bands even offer incentives for joining such as college loan repayment programs. Over the last couple of decades, military bands have gained respect in the music world by performing at music conferences and major venues worldwide as well as expanding their educational outreach programs in the schools nationwide. As a result they continue to attract better and better musicians. Competition is fierce especially for the bands in Washington, DC and the Coast Guard Band in New London, Ct.

www.geocities.com/compserbethea/militarybands.html

This website will give you a complete listing of all military bands for all of the services. To find out more about a specific band, click on it's name and you will be sent to their website. These websites contain anything you would want to know about the band- it's mission, history, concert/touring schedules, openings and audition information etc.

Following is a listing of web addresses for the special bands in Washington, DC

The President's Own Marine Band-- www.marineband.usmc.mil/

The Airforce Band-- www.usafb.com/

The Navy Band-- www.navy.mil/armyband

The Army Field Band-- www.army.mil/fieldband/index.htm

Don't forget about the Coast Guard- they have an excellent special band stationed in New London, Ct

www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/comrel/band/

A Piccoloist's Perspective of Conductors

This topic came about as the result of a request from a professor at Stephan Austin University where I was a guest soloist/clinician. Most of the ideas should be a review and reinforcement for those who have conducting experience. As a musician, I've played for many conductors--some very good and some quite poor. The following ideas contains suggestions and qualities that make for a great conductor.

1. You are a musician, a leader, and a pshycologist
 - a. Be prepared--know your scores and continue to expand your knowledge of the repertoire.
 - b. Know when to use positive reinforcement and keep your players motivated. Praise solos well played.
 - c. You are a leader who brings an ensemble together- a great conductor makes a great band even better. Even great bands won't sound as good as they can if they don't have good leadership.
 - d. Treat musicians with respect and dignity--you can be demanding without being condescending
2. Efficient use of time-keep musicians on the edge of their seats, don't spend too much time with one section--that's what sectionals are for, start and end ON TIME-if you think you are going to run late, let your musicians know.
3. Explain why you want to repeat a passage
3. Tempo memory
5. Talk less and speak more through the baton.
8. Keep a sense of humor-set a positive energy for the rehearsal.