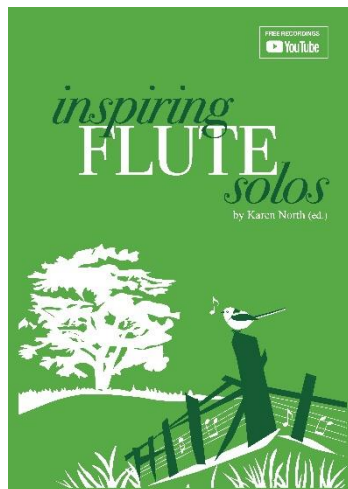


## Music Review - Inspiring Flute Solos for by Karen North, for Intermediate Level Study

By BJ Nicoletti

A very well presented webpage on this publication, including sample pages, listening samples, information on composers commissioned, and links to other publications of potential interest: <https://www.allegromusicpublishing.com/inspiringflutesolos>



Published in 2022 by [Allegro Music Company](#) and arranged by Karen North, this collection of thirty carefully curated and refreshingly original “inspiring solos” for the intermediate flutist are indeed inspiring to learn, teach and perform as well as perfectly suited to the early-intermediate to advanced-intermediate flutist. All are for unaccompanied flute and are a well-balanced treasure chest of teachable moments in term of styles, technique, musicality, articulation, meters, and early effects like pitch bends, flutter tonguing, stamping, and clapping. They represent a range of styles - polka, tango, and other dance tunes as well as pieces with a jazzy feel, classical, folk, programmatic/character pieces, nocturne, arias, comical sketches.

With respect to early learning about musicality and finding inspiration and joy in playing music, the selections are very transparent and accessible as evidenced by such titles as - Ragtime Relish, Carnival Calypso, Snappy Toes, A Dancing Dragonfly, Mountain Elves, Farewell Nocturne, Tip-toe Tango, Arioso, A-Maze, Italian Polka, The Castle of Balvenie, Hungarian Dance, Penguin Run and several more! This collection takes the flutist around the world while inviting the flutist to be the

dragonfly or the bird, dance with elves and ghosts, take a moment to reflect, and live in the feeling of gazing up to starry skies.

“The collection features contemporary composers from around the world, with exclusively commissioned works, together with inspiring new arrangements of music by 19th and 20th century masters.” (the sheet music foreword). There are: three pieces commissioned by North of Elena Kats-Chernin - Waltz of the Watermelons, Tarantella in a Teapot, and Ragtime Relish; two shakuhachi style pieces commissioned by North of Gary Shocker - Chapu and Shima Enaga; and seven arrangements of classical pieces by North herself - two of works by Chaminade, a Rachmaninoff, Engelmann, Brahms, and a Dobrzynski.

North includes short composer biographies which give context and nudge curiosity about the composer and music history. There are also brief performance notes for each of the pieces that are instructive should the student of the pieces not have a teacher and reinforcing if they do. These tidbits of instruction also lean toward giving the student something to think about on their own – a bit of prescriptive along with something to think about. Finally, there are free flute recordings for every piece on YouTube at “theyoungfluteplayer” (no spaces) channel, see the “playlist” for Inspiring Flute Solos.

A bonus, these pieces can be easily sightread by the more advanced player and serve as unaccompanied pieces to play as background music or even interspersing a set of them as part of a concert program. It is easy to concur with reviews on North’s website that suggest these pieces are worthy of programming.

Note, a version of this review will also be published in the Spring, 2024 NFA Flutist Quarterly. If you are not already a member, there are benefits in addition to Flutist Quarterly that you might appreciate - <https://www.nfaonline.org/about/membership-benefits/benefits-of-membership>

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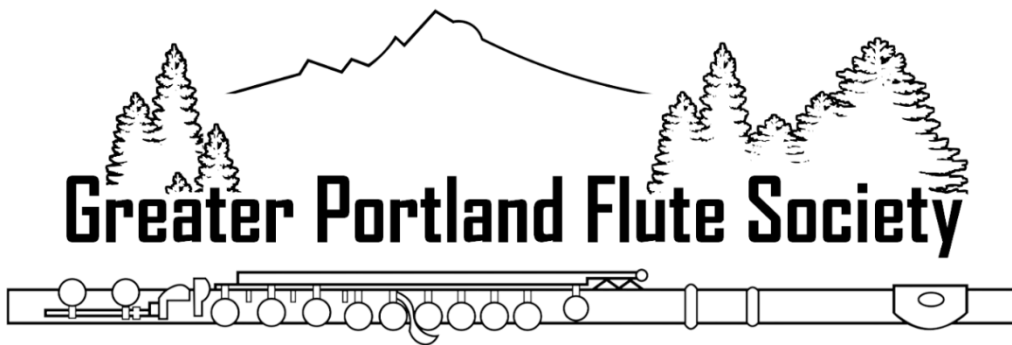
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