



Highlights from Guest Artist Gareth McLearnon's Two Flute Fair Workshops – Demystifying Tone and Whistle Stop Tour of Extended Techniques



On Saturday, April 9th, the GPFS 2022 Flute Guest Artist [Gareth McLearnon](#) presented two content rich, spectacular, and, at times, humorous workshops on demystifying tone and modern techniques. He is an excellent, charming, encouraging yet serious teacher with very creative, but pointed explanations and tips.

Gareth's performance and workshops were made possible by the support of Wm. S. Haynes Co. with whom Gareth is the European Guest Artist in Residence.

These presentations for GPFS are so thoroughly represented in his two handouts, it suffices to simply make his content available to you largely through these handout links below. At the back of the document, we are also providing a few of his slides from the tone workshop – his “pictures” speak a thousand words.

❖ [HANDOUT 1- Demystifying Great Flute Tone: Fundamentals, Artistry and Myth-Busting](#). In short, he covers: the basics of how you make a sound on the flute; where you strike the wall for high, middle and low notes (focal point and air direction); air speed; how much of the embouchure hole to cover; sculpting of the air stream; his model for and the characteristics of good fundamental tone in

all registers; tone colors, including his coffee analogy, pictured below; “sing it” method to tune into colors; projection as different types of speech; and, vibrato and breathing, including some serious myth busting.

Channeling Marcel Moyse, his final Tone Workshop counsel is to always play generously from your heart - "I long ago observed that the real beauty of the sound comes from the generosity of the heart." (M. Moyse)

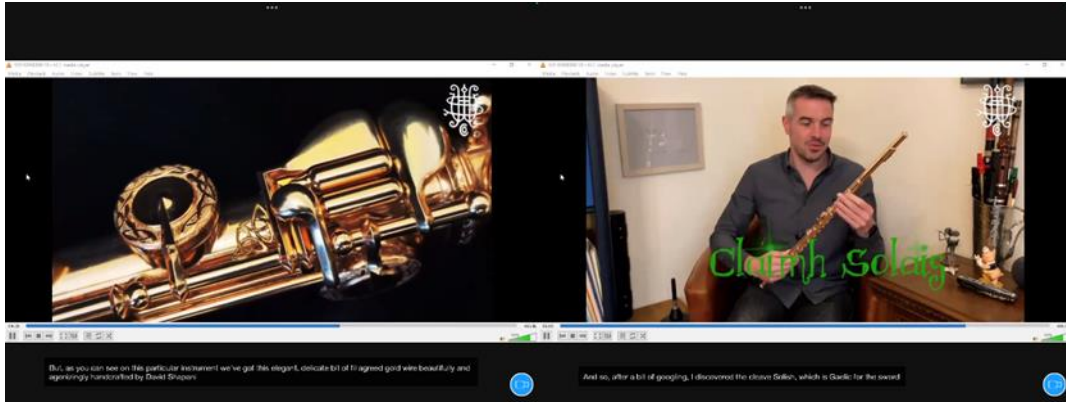
- ❖ **[HANDOUT 2 - The Whistle Stop Tour of Extended Techniques: A "Flutes Out" Exploration of the Most Common Contemporary Techniques for the Flute.](#)** This was a whistle stop tour indeed! While still managing to provide for each technique a very specific learning strategy and benefit for our own playing, he *briefly* covers the topics of: flutter tonguing; harmonics; alternative fingerings; multiphonics; glissando; quarter tones; key clicks; timbral trills & hot trills; ultra-high notes; singing and playing; difference tones with singing and playing; residual tone; explosive articulation; tongue pops; jet whistle; tongue stops/rams; whale sound; ghost/dampened notes; non-standard tones; and, whistle tones.

The "Flute Colors" Web-World, Spend Some Time There: Gareth also highly recommended [Flute Colors: Extended Techniques for Flute](#), by Rogier de Pijper.

- We have written a review/overview of this method for this issue of The Portland Piper which can be found in the Music Reviews Column. In short, his is a very content rich, practical, affordable bang-for-the-buck, multi-method resource for learning and practicing most modern techniques.

Watch for More Insights from Gareth! We recommend you attend any workshop of Gareth's you can find. He is a guest presenter at the upcoming Wisconsin Flute Festival, online, where he will be presenting on the topic of motivation in practice, playing and life. We intend to offer highlights of this session in our upcoming June issue of The Portland Piper.

"It might sound strange, but one of my favorite moments from Gareth's class was the video of the inside of the throat while playing vibrato. I loved the visual of the vocal folds vibrating together and will be using that visual for myself and my students!" (Tone workshop participant)



Claimh Solais - In addition to these two workshops, and his performance Friday evening, Gareth shared a video about the making of his new Haynes flute. <https://youtu.be/01QUIPPIDz4>

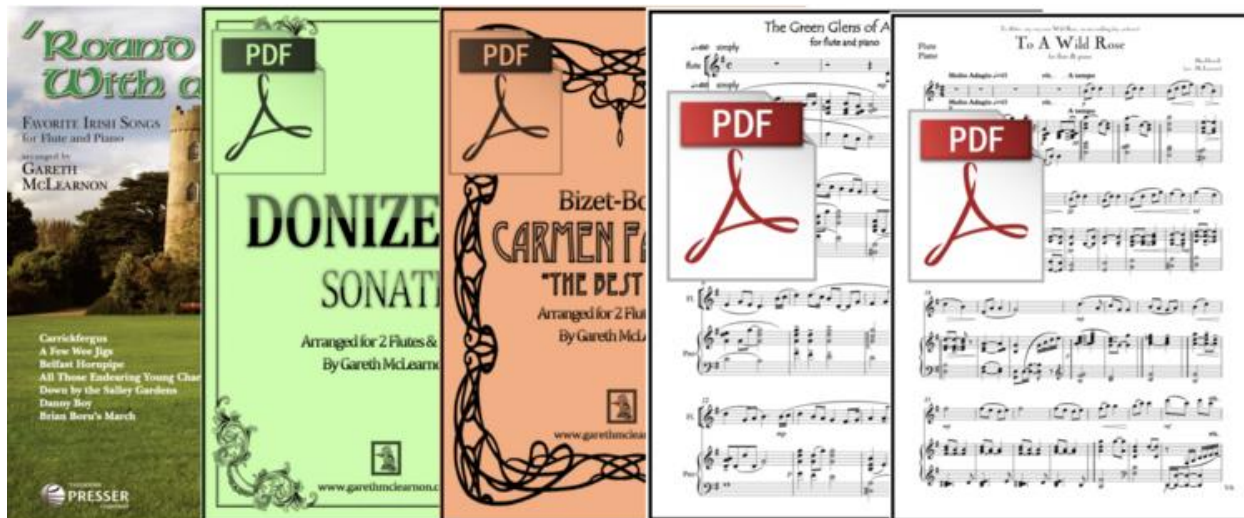
No words can describe the content of this video as well as hearing the joy and respect in Gareth's voice or seeing the photos of the instrument. It is only a few minutes long.

Watch it!

Prepare yourself for feelings of wonder and utter desire, at least some rapid breathing.

<https://youtu.be/01QUIPPIDz4>

Background on Gareth McLearnon

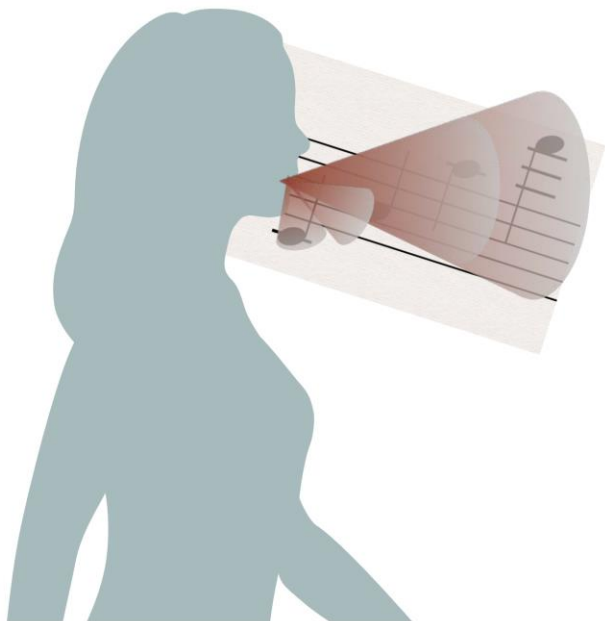


- ❖ Gareth McLearnon is an internationally renowned and multi-award-winning flute soloist, recording artist and chamber musician as well as a sought-after educator, and prolific composer and arranger.
- ❖ He has given hundreds of masterclasses for thousands of flutists all over the world including at such prestigious institutions as Yale University; Manhattan School of Music, Vienna University for Music & Performing Arts, Guildhall School of Music & Drama; the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing; The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland; The Norwegian Academy of Music; Swedish Royal College of Music; Royal Danish Academy of Music, Campos do Jordao, Sao Paulo; Gnnessin School and Academy in Moscow, and classes and performances at the British, Australian, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Norwegian, Finnish, Swiss, Hungarian, Adams and Sir James Galway Flute Festivals, as well as concerts and masterclasses across six continents.
- ❖ In 2013 Gareth was invited to be the Flute Professor at the Yuri Bashmet International Music Academy in Samara, Russia. Further engagements all over Russia followed on from this, including numerous masterclass tours to dozens of cities and numerous solo and concerto performances with the Moscow Soloists conducted by Maestro Yuri Bashmet himself.
- ❖ Gareth has been principal flute of The Heritage Orchestra since 2009 - playing concerts all over the UK, Europe & The Middle East – working with numerous high profile jazz, alternative, pop, hip-hop, dance music and cutting-edge experimental artists – frequently selling-out arenas, and recording for TV, Radio and international album releases.
- ❖ As a composer and arranger, his settings for flute & piano and flute ensemble alongside his numerous original works for flute, and flute ensemble are regularly performed all over the world.
- ❖ Gareth is European Artist-in-Residence for the Wm. S. Haynes Co. and a Haynes Artist - playing on a pair of their finest custom made solid 14K gold flutes #54321 & #54322.

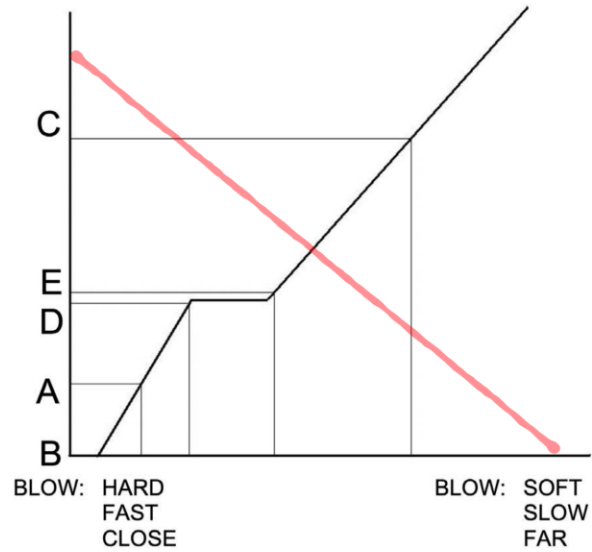
AIR DIRECTION



FOCAL POINT OF THE AIR



AIR SPEED



AIR SPEED

For the top register:

The mosquito and the supertanker



*very small
very fast
(very annoying)*



*very large
very slow*

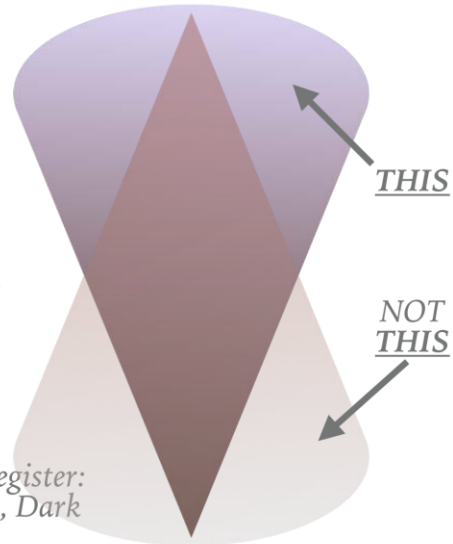
GOOD FUNDAMENTAL TONE?

In ALL Registers: Clear, Resonant, Vibrant

*In the Top Register:
Large, Easy, Generous, Expansive*

*In the Middle Register:
Sonorous, Flowing, Buoyant, Free*

*In the Bottom Register:
Deep, Rich, Full, Dark*



TONE COLOURS

So I developed The Coffee Analogy

Types of Barista Coffee:



Ristretto



Espresso



Espresso Macchiato



Flat White



Cappuccino



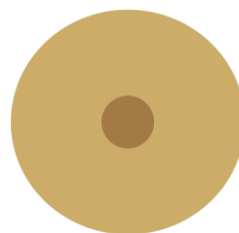
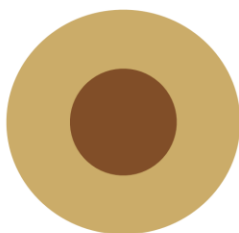
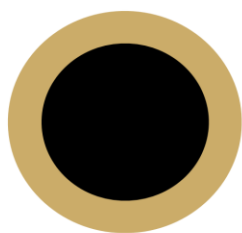
Caffè Latté



The 7-11 Latté

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Coffee = Tone Centre
Milk = Space



EXAMPLES

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GPFS acknowledges with gratitude the many years of support from our [Sponsors and Commercial Members](#). It is because of their excellence that the GPFS mission can excel and celebrate our 44th year of extraordinary programming for the greater Portland area, including hosting visiting artists and local events, student study grants and a range of other resources for members and the community of flutists at large.

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