



Tips for Improving Your Tone

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Flute

Humming

Try humming before you play. You should notice that humming a low note feels a lot different than humming a high note. To me, when I hum a low note, I feel like I have to hold my throat down. I can see this in a mirror! Similarly, when I hum a high note, my throat feels high and it feels more restricted.

Carry this over to your Flute playing. Changing registers on the Flute should become easier with humming practice.

Sandpaper Analogy

There are three basic kinds of sandpaper: course, medium, and fine.

If you use them in the wrong order, or if you try to do the whole job with just one type, the job fails. This is the same with Flute.

1. Our throats and the backs of our tongues are the course sandpaper. This is the first place we refine our air. With our throat positioned properly (hum it first!), the airspeed will be in good shape!
2. The inside shape of the mouth is the medium sandpaper.
3. The lips are the fine sandpaper.

Further Practice

Hum or sing scales or passages of music and replicate the feeling when playing.

Band directors: You should see your “tight-embouchured” flute students begin to relax their lips in time with proper throat placement.

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-Check out my website for more information and other media!

-Also, be sure to check out my book:

[The No-Nonsense Guide to Becoming a Professional Flutist](#), available on Amazon.com