



Saturday Afternoon Tea Time Talk

Rick Wilson

• Boxwood Winter Weekend • March 14, 2003 • Eau Claire, Wisconsin •

I. Renaissance and one-key (or more-key) flutes through 1800

Keyless renaissance flute, boxwood,
(by Philippe Alain-Dupré, after 16C flutes in Brussels)
A La Fontaine, Thomas Crecquillon

Early (three-part) one-key flute, boxwood,
(by Roderick Cameron, after Hotteterre, Paris, c.1700)
Preludes from Hotteterre's L'Art de Preluder

One-key flute, boxwood, stamped Lotz, mid-18th century?
Fantasia from Quantz

Six-key flute, ivory, by Richard Potter, London, c.1790
Airs from John Gunn's "Art of Playing the German Flute" (1793).

II. Nineteenth century keyed flutes • Nicholson, Tulou, and Fürstenau

Six-key flute, boxwood, by W. Liebel, Dresden, c.1825
Excerpt from Beethoven's Seventh

Seven-key flute, glass, by C. Laurent, Paris, 1834
Five-key flute, cocuswood, by Tulou, Paris, c.1835
Etude from Tulou's "Méthode de Flûte" (1833-51)

Nine-key large-holed flute, blackwood, by Wylde, London, c.1850
Tunes from Nicolson's "Preceptive Lessons" (1821)

10-key flute, blackwood, by Koch, Vienna, c.1820
14-key flute, stained cocuswood, by Koch, Vienna, c.1825
Excerpts from Fürstenau's "Die Kunst des Flötenspiels" (1844)

III. Boehm, and the rise of a multitude of systems

Conical Boehm flute, cocuswood, by Godfroy, Paris, c.1845
Sonata from Dorus' "L'Étude de la Nouvelle Flûte" (1837)

Pentenreider flute, blackwood, by B. Pentenrieder, Munich, c.1845
Excerpts from Nel cor più non mi sento, thème varie, op.4, T. Boehm

Cylindrical Boehm flute, metal, by Bonneville, Paris, c.1912
Elégie-Etude, Jean Donjon

Swedler-flöte, blackwood w/metal head, by V. Kolhert Söhne. Graslitz, c.1910
Radcliff system flute, cocuswood, by Rudall Carte, London, 1927
Etudes from E. Köhler's Op.33

- 1529 Agricola's fingering charts for keyless, cylindrical flutes
- c 1670 One-key flute with conical bore appears
- c 1720 Four-part construction appears; experiments with extended foot joint; Quantz' two-key flute (1726); Bach writes for transverse flute
- c 1755 Six-key flutes made in England
- c 1790 Keyed flutes becoming more common, as innovations and experiments continue; popularity and usage varies greatly from one country to another (Mozart d.1791)
- 1820s Flutes extending to low G made in Vienna
Germany: 9-key flute with B-foot common
England: 8-key flute with C-foot "standard", some with "large holes"
France: 5-key flute with D-foot "standard"
(Beethoven d.1827; Schubert d.1828)
- 1832 Conical Boehm flute, wooden with ring-keys (Munich)
- 1847 Cylindrical Boehm flute in metal (Munich)
- c 1837 Conical Boehm flutes made in Paris; French make modifications
- 1840s Conical Boehm flutes made in London and New York; ongoing experiments with mechanism and new designs or systems: e.g. Ward, Siccama, Briccialdi (London), Tulou/Nonon (Paris), Pentenrieder (Munich)
- 1850s London: Carte 1851, Clinton Equisonant, and Pratten's Perfected flutes; cylindrical bore in use with a variety of systems;
- 1860 Cylindrical Boehm flute (silver) adopted at Paris Conservatoire
- c 1870 London: Carte 1867 system, Radcliff system; Italy: cylindrical Briccialdi system
- 1882 After criticism by Wagner, Tillmetz switches from cylindrical Boehm to conical
- 1885 Simple system remains "standard" in most of Germany; the number of keys on Viennese-style flutes can approach 20; Schwedler and Kruspe's first model (Leipzig)
- c 1900 Schwedler and Kruspe Reformflöte (1898) used in many German orchestras; Boehm flutes found in a number of large orchestras, even some in Germany, but ordinary flutes found in other orchestras, dance bands, homes, etc.
- c 1930 Boehm flute finally becomes the professional "standard" in England and Germany (wood preferred in these countries); ordinary and reform flutes remain in use

Flutes (from the Wilson collection) are shown on the opposite page in the order in which they appear (see front page).

The makers are 1. Allain-Dupre, 2. Cameron, 3. Lotz, 4. Potter, 5. Liebel, 6. Tulou, 7. Laurent, 8. Wylde, 9. Koch, 10. Koch, 11. Godfroy, 12. Pentenrieder, 13. Kohlert, 14. Bonneville, 15. Rudall Carte.

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