<u>Twelve Lessons</u>

L Duets



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These lessons and duets are intended to bridge the gap between the beginner and intermediate levels flute playing, where the focus is on solidifying the basic techniques and principles of flute playing.

The lessons are all in a theme and variations format. The intention is not only to show the student how changing parameters like meter, articulation and tempo can affect the mood of a piece, but also how changing rhythmic patterns can be helpful in practicing technically difficult passages. It is hoped that the student can, by studying the differences between the passages, learn to identify key structural elements that make for characterful playing while also introducing the student to examples illustrating the meaning of some common (and some less common) musical terms.

The duets are arranged in a more or less progressive order. The key criterion for their selection was their having a broadly contrapuntal nature. The main reason for this decision is the fact that most flautists (especially those who have no prior experience of playing piano) need to establish a firm grasp of the primacy of the pulse and metrical considerations over the urge to breathe. Secondly, playing contrapuntal music helps a student learn the intricacies of phrasing by copying the master in a dynamic setting and without the need to descend to the practice of rote learning or copying recorded sounds. Another reason for using this type of music is that it is often more vocally conceived than its *stile nuvo* counterparts at a similar level, which helps the student focus on tone production (another key consideration at this level). Finally, contrapuntal music teaches the student the ebb and flow of now leading and now receding which is the hallmark of sensitive playing.

This book is not intended to be used on its own in a sequential manner as the difficulty level will probably increase too quickly for all but the most diligent of students, so it is envisaged that it be used in conjunction with other material such as beginner methods and exam pieces over the course of a year or more.

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Fantasia

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