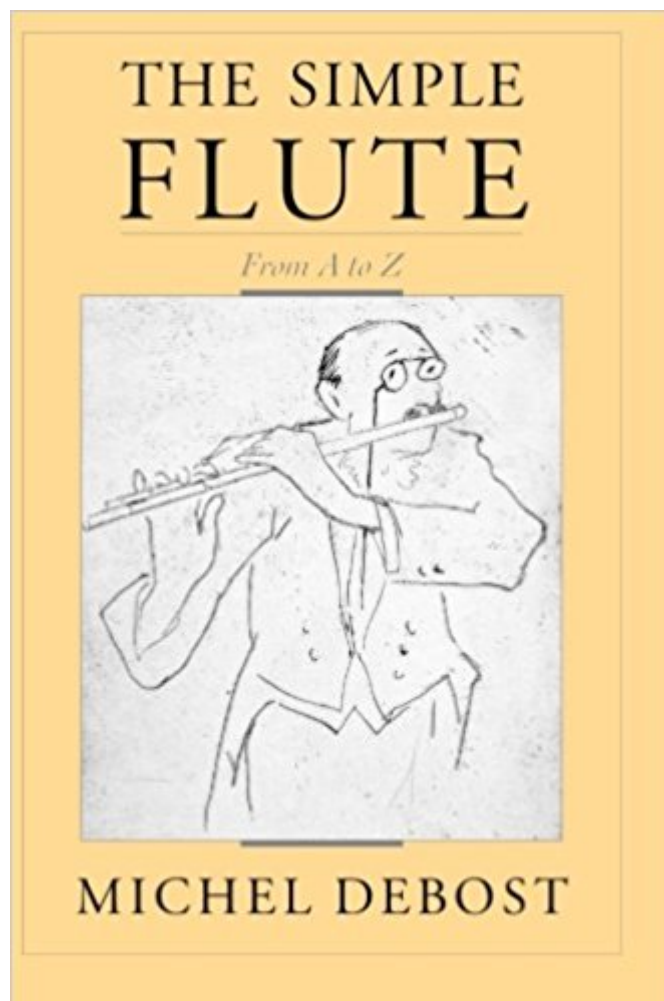


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The Simple Flute: From A To Z



Synopsis

Drawing from his highly praised French work, *Une simple flute*, distinguished flutist and teacher Michel Debost has compiled a useful and imaginative introduction to playing the flute. This alphabetically arranged compendium of advice and insight covers essential topics such as breathing, articulation, and tone, but also explores "jawboning," "finger phrasing," "the little devils," and other quirky and vexing aspects of flute playing. Full of practical advice on technique and axioms that lend moral support during tough practice sessions, *The Simple Flute* will be a welcome addition to any serious or novice flutist's library. In addition, the book includes original exercises such as "Debost's Scale Game," making it an excellent resource for flute teachers. Debost concludes each essay with "In a nutshell" and "Please refer to" boxes that make the book easy to browse, dog-ear, and return to again and again. Offering concise, common-sense solutions for flutists of all levels, this book is an ideal reference guide on flute performance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Finally, after too long a wait we have the English version of *Une Simple Flute*....I urge every flute player, every flute student, and every library to get this book, devour it, relish its practicality and freshness, and savor its savoir faire." --The Flute Network
"Debost's writing style is refreshingly candid and reaches flutists of all levels. His quotes and footnotes reflect an inquiring mind, broad knowledge, and a superb intellect, all of which are inspiring to encounter. His wisdom is shared simply and directly. Other points are made with great humor or with thought-provoking metaphor, or

poetic simile." --Leone Buyse, Professor of Flute and Chamber Music at Rice University and former acting principal flute of the Boston Symphony "It should be required reading for every student of the flute. Debost has excellent ideas and expresses them clearly and interestingly. Certainly a must have on the book shelf." --Patricia George "Michel Debost used to tell us in his classes at the Conservatoire de Paris that his methods were not the Bible, but rather a 'gospel according to Saint Michel'.... This is a new kind of reference, resting on more than fifty years of experience, full of sensitivity and good sense, with little dogmatism and lots of intelligence.... The curious student as well as the established teacher will plunge into the book, and raise their head three minutes later having learned something new that they will want to put to the test immediately. The book is a delight to read, handling language with ease and pertinence, capable of surprising us with each turn of phrase." --Emmanuel Pahud, solo flutist with Berliner Philharmoniker

Michel Debost is Professor of Flute at the Oberlin Conservatory. He succeeded Jean-Pierre Rampal at the Paris Conservatoire National and served as principal of the Orchestre de Paris under music directors Munch, Karajan, Solti, and Barenboim.

I began taking lessons on the flute as an adult a few years ago. I have worked with two different teachers and have also found a lot of help online and through books. This book is so excellent. In particular, Debost communicates his strong and clear sense of how the body relates to producing the tone of the flute.

Useful and wonderfully written, but alphabetical, so you probably won't want to read it from cover to cover.

This fabulous book is relatively easy to read. The style is conversational; you feel you're having a personal chat with a master. I totally agree with the core philosophy of the book: Enjoy what you do, don't hurt yourself doing it, and yes: proper practice will help you enjoy the flute even more.

Excellent reading. Lots of deep insights. Sometimes it does not seem like a book of music. The ideas are repeated again and again, which in the music field is alright.

I have gone through about 20 flute books in my quest for inspiration and tips about this wonderful instrument. This one is the best by far because Debost LOVES FLUTES, and he loves to play the

flute. He refers to the sound that comes out of the instrument (when played well) as a "sensual pleasure" for the player (and listeners). He thinks "No pain, no gain" is unrealistic, and that more comfort equals more pleasure. Good point! When it comes to the rules of fingering, he maintains that if it isn't the "correct" fingering but doesn't hurt the music, and feels better or makes it easier, one should go ahead and do it. The idea that sticks out most is that playing the flute should be fun and richly rewarding. The A-Z layout of the book is totally reader-friendly. One can look at the list of topics and easily find exactly what is desired. I love this book. :)

The message of this book is that flutists should trust themselves to do whatever works for them to transcend technique and get down to the business of making music. To that end, Debost offers good, practical advice based on many years of experience. The book is fun to dip into at random or to read more seriously.

This book is Debost's (successful) attempt at making the flute less complicated than we perceive it. Every serious flutist should read this book and take what works for them from it!!

Absolutely recommended reading for those who are tired of dogmatism about flute's technique. Over fifty years of playing and teaching experience with smartly motivated explanations available for everyone. Every subject is covered with humor, deep sight and ready to use advices are given to enhance immediately flute playing.

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