

## The Art of Listening

How you listen is what transforms you into a musician and  
The Art of Listening is the Path to becoming a great Artist, Musician, Flutist.  
What are you listening to?

How sensitive, aware, refined, integrated, fresh, are your listening skills?  
Make sure to cleanse, open and nourish your ears during each practice session.

There are many kinds of Ears you can use to enter the Path, to the Art of Listening.  
It is essential to learn about and Master all of these Ears and Levels of Listening.

### **Ears:**

**Physical**

**Mental**

**Emotional**

**Spiritual**

Physical Ears: Hear all Sound, all Vibrations...

Notes, Tones, Intervals, Chords, Rhythms, Melodies, Harmonies, Silence...

Ways of Developing your Physical Ears are:

1. Developing your own Tone through a variety of exercises.
2. Enjoying and delving into your Intonation studies and Ear Training.
3. Listening to great musicians play; via live performances and recordings.
4. Recording your self and listening to it in great detail.
5. Being curious about Sound. How is sound made, created, formed,shaped, sounded?

Mental Ears: Hear and ask...

What is working? How do I practice this? What am I hearin ? Is what I am hearing what is coming out of my instrument? What is that person hearing that just made a comment about my playing or about music? How do they hear something that I do not hear? How do I describe what I am hearing; ie. style, period, composer, chords etc.? How do I make sense of the music. Is this a technical issue, a tonal issue, a physical issue, a stylistic issue, a phrasing or expressive issue? How do I create that sound, that rhythm, that color, that virtuosity, that kind of articulation, that rit., that diminuendo, that dynamic expression?

Ways of Developing your Mental Ears are:

1. Become more detailed in your practice.
2. Ask yourself a lot of questions that you have to answer for your self! Listen to your answers and try them. Did they work? Think about and refine your approach, try again
3. Do you need more information? Use all your resources.
4. Learn everything you can about music and think about it.
5. Keep, learning, asking, listening and thinking to expand your Mental Ears.

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Emotional Ears: Listen and: have an emotional reaction, response to the music. Feel the music. React to the energy, the dynamics of the music. Want to describe the emotional nature of the music. Feel the movement of the music. Want to become involved with the music. Express how you feel about the music you are practicing or listening to. Wonder, how do I play with this music so that it comes to life?

Ways of Developing your Emotional Ears are:

1. What do you feel about the music you are playing, practicing? Listen and answer.
2. How do you describe in musical terms, what you are feeling about the energy / dynamics and the emotional nature of the music?
3. How does the phrasing you or another musician creates, effect the music? Be able to express what you are hearing on your instrument!
4. Expand your ability to shape a musical line, to create a variety of musical phrases.
5. Learn to create tonal nuances, expand your palette of colors, vary your vibrato. These all have an emotional value and create special moments in music making.
6. Allow your dynamic expression to flourish. For example, there are many dynamic levels of expression between mf and F!
7. Movement - Rhythm, learn to express all the forms of rhythm. How are 1's, 2's, 3's, and 4 note groupings unique? Can you express this on your instrument ? Learn to play in all tempo's and to play all the forms of rubato, rallentando, ritardando, accelerando etc... Music is alive and all these nuances in the movement of music, the life of the rhythm, need to be heard and felt and brought to life by you.

Spiritual Ears: Hear and inquire: is there an even deeper meaning and level of musical expression?

Ways of Developing your Spiritual Ears are: Develop all the above and listen to the music in the rests, and in the silence.

The Art of Listening requires you to be actively involved.

You have to be doing it, and engage all of yourself.

Use all your Ears, senses, your whole body must participate.

This will expand your ability to hear on many Levels.

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### **Levels of Listening:**

Hear are two examples of Levels of Listening.

There are so many more, when you add another person( i.e. flute and piano), a chamber ensemble and a large ensemble with a conductor.

#### You Hear:

1. your Tone. ( without much detail in your listening at this level)
2. your tone, and it's clarity.
3. your tone, clarity and your vibrato.
4. your tone, clarity, vibrato and your intonation.
5. your tone, clarity, vibrato, intonation, and dynamic.
6. your tone, clarity, vibrato, intonation, dynamic and resonance.
7. your tone, clarity, vibrato, intonation, dynamic, resonance and projection.
8. your tone, clarity , vibrato, intonation, dynamic, resonance, projection and depth.
9. your tone, clarity, vibrato, intonation, dynamic, resonance, projection, depth and overtones.
10. your tone, clarity, vibrato, intonation, dynamic, resonance, projection, depth, overtones and consistency.
11. your tone, clarity, vibrato, intonation, dynamic, resonance, projection, depth, overtones, consistency and color.
12. your tone, clarity, vibrato, intonation, dynamic, resonance, projection, depth, overtones, consistency, color and here you are beginning to develop a YOUR UNIQUE tone.

#### You Hear:

1. only yourself ( you are only working at the flute playing aspects at this level of listening)
2. yourself and the rhythm.
3. yourself and the melody.
4. yourself and the harmony.
5. yourself and the melody and rhythm together.
6. yourself, the melody, the rhythm, and the harmony all together.
7. yourself, the melody, the rhythm, the harmony, and the dynamics.
8. yourself, the melody, the rhythm, the harmony, and the articulations.
9. yourself, the melody, the rhythm, the harmony, the articulations and the phrasing.
10. yourself, the melody, the rhythm, the harmony, the dynamics, the articulations, the phrasing and the intonation.
11. your self, the melody, the rhythm, the harmony, the dynamics, the articulations, the phrasing, the intonation and the silence.
12. at this level you begin to hear things as, ONE as a WHOLE piece of music...