



# YAMAHA

## Educator Series

WIND INSTRUMENTS



*Andrea Kapell Loewy*

*Andrea Kapell Loewy is a Professor of Flute and Graduate Coordinator at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Principal Flutist of the Acadiana Symphony. A graduate of Eastman School of Music, she studied with Joseph Mariano. Loewy received the MM from Emporia State University where she was flutist of the Mid-America Woodwind Quintet and the DMA from the University of Memphis where she studied with Bruce Erskine. Other Influential teachers include Julius Baker, Phillip Kaplan, John Heiss, and Harold Bennett. Prior to her appointment at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, she was Co-Principal Flutist of the Orchestra of the State of Mexico and adjunct professor of flute at Rhodes College.*

## Attendance at Flute Conventions

*By Andrea Kapell Loewy*

Attendance at flute conventions helps to infuse students of all levels with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the instrument and the art of music. Often, the private teacher in the area has the most information concerning future conferences at the state, regional, and national levels. In most cases, there is a network of teachers who share information with each other concerning dates, requirements for performances of students, master class procedures, and contact information. The band directors also may receive information concerning upcoming conventions. In addition to these types of information, I would recommend contacting the National Flute Association. This organization not only provides information concerning the next national convention, but can also direct a student inquiring about state or regional conventions to a specific teacher in that region. The National Flute Association website is [www.nfaonline.org](http://www.nfaonline.org) and the e-mail contact is [nfacentral@compuserve.com](mailto:nfacentral@compuserve.com).

There are several ways in which attendance at a convention helps to improve the flutist's playing and general knowledge. Firstly, the student is able to hear players of all levels and localities. Often students of a particular city do not hear anyone else play outside of their certain area or region. The exposure to many different playing styles helps to enrich the student. At the national convention, one can hear performances of professional flutists from all over the United States and the world, including players from Australia, South America, and the Middle East. A student quickly discerns the differences and similarities among these players and can then choose which characteristics he/she particularly would like to emulate. At a regional or state level, the student has the opportunity to meet the various private teachers and college professors of the area. In addition, he/she can gain valuable insights into the strengths and pedagogical styles of the various teachers in attendance through their performances, classes, or by listening to their students perform and talking to them afterwards. Sometimes it is even possible to request a lesson from a teacher in attendance at a convention, either at the national or state level, for a fee.

Secondly, many manufacturers of the flute and related music accessories set up booths at the conferences and are particularly focused upon helping the student to purchase desired items. It is an excellent time for a private teacher or band director to advise the purchase of new music and even instruments. An excellent benefit is the fact that so many instruments are available for trial and thus the student has the chance to compare various models. Often students who are ready for their next instrument compare prices, characteristics, and models and then take the paperwork home for more consideration. There are usually payment plans available from the music dealer, which can be discussed right at the convention.

Thirdly, the student attending a convention usually has the chance to perform and to feel part of a larger family of flutists. At the state and regional levels, there are often open critique sessions or opportunities for performance at the master class with the invited artist/teacher. For this latter event, a taped audition is usually specified. In addition, there is often an open flute choir reading session



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available. At the National level there are often open master class sessions in which any player may perform for a short while, flute choir reading sessions, question and answer sessions, and special performance events for which an invitation has been extended. An example of the latter would include an invited flute choir from a school or university or a special performance in conjunction with an event such as the Mariano tribute at the last National Flute Convention in Dallas, in which students and "grand-students" performed.

Lastly, a student at a convention has the opportunity to hear others of his/her own age perform at a very high level and this often serves as a motivating factor. When a student realizes what can actually be accomplished, he/she then aspires to that level and is not as easily satisfied. Often there is a period of rapid growth and intellectual curiosity immediately following conference attendance. Also the student often hears pieces he/she is very interested in and immediately buys and starts learning new repertoire as a result of his own motivation and inspiration. That self-motivation and internal drive is a benefit that is so important to the long-term development of players that it cannot be overstressed.

In conclusion, attendance at conventions help the developing students in four important ways: the opportunity of hearing professional players from outside the home town, the presence of manufacturers with their extensive displays and knowledge, the opportunity to perform and feel part of a larger family of musicians, and the benefit and inspiration of hearing others of a similar age perform.

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