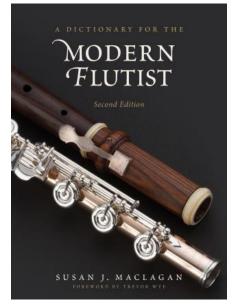


Music Review – A Dictionary for the Modern Flutist by Susan Maclagan (2009 1st edition, 245 pages; and, 2019 2nd edition, 434 pages)

Review by GPFS Member BJ Nicoletti and Flute Society of South Australia



At the GPFS Flute Fair this year, given it was online and more broadly accessible, we had participants from outside of Oregon, including Susan Maclagan from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada! You may not know that Susan is the author of A Dictionary for the Modern Flutist.

This book is published by Rowman and Littlefield - <u>A</u> <u>Dictionary for the Modern Flutist, 2nd Edition -</u> <u>9781538106655 (rowman.com)</u>

It is commonly regarded as a substantial reference worth ownership. With a Forward written by Trevor Wye and a first edition review by Walfrid Kujala, the 2019 2nd edition (which escaped most of us given the arrival of covid "distraction") also has received positive reviews.

While it has a more substantial cost for the individual flutist to own (just under \$100 on Amazon), it appears to be <u>available through Oregon's university system</u>, <u>interlibrary loan</u> service. This would be a practical way to give it a good look through before deciding to purchase the dictionary. Further, many local libraries accept recommendations for purchase so please consider taking steps to get this great resource into our libraries. It also makes a great gift for us flutists and the other flutists friend in your life, including a teacher. Let's get it on everyone's wish list!

The 2nd edition, 2019, was reviewed by our flutist friends WAY "across the pond" – The Flute Society of South Australia. Susan shares this review with us here. You will find it pasted below.

This resource is a wealth of information. Here is a description from the publisher's site:

The second edition of Susan J. Maclagan's A Dictionary for the Modern Flutist presents clear and concise definitions of more than 1,600 common flute-related terms that a player of the Boehm-system or Baroque flute may encounter. Fully illustrated with more than 150 images, the entries describe flute types, flute parts; playing techniques; acoustics; articulations; intonation; common ornaments; flute-making and repairs; flute history; flute music books, and many more topics.

Unique to the second edition are entries on beatbox techniques and muscles of the face and throat. Entries now also feature bibliographic cross-references for further research. Carefully labeled illustrations for many flute types, parts, mechanisms, and accessories help make definitions easier to visualize. Appendixes provide further information on such subjects as flute classifications, types of flutes and their parts, key and tone hole names, head joint options, orchestra and opera audition excerpts, and biographies of people mentioned in the definitions. Contributed articles include "An Easy Guide to Checking Your Flute Tuning and Scale" by Trevor Wye; "Flute Clutches" by David Shorey; "Early Music on Modern Flute" by Barthold Kuijken; and "Crowns and Stoppers" and "Boehm Flute Scales from 1847 to the Present:The Short Story" by Gary Lewis.

Maclagan's A Dictionary for the Modern Flutist, second edition is an essential reference volume for flutists of all levels and for libraries supporting student, professional, and amateur musicians.



Picture of author Susan Maclagan

See the Flute Society of South Australia's review of this resource below!

Looking for a good read?

A Dictionary for the Modern Flutist (2nd edition)

Susan J. Maclagan. Foreword by Trevor Wye. Rowman and Littlefield, 2019.

Reviewed by Robert Brown OAM

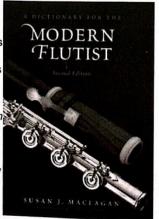
Canadian flautist Susan Maclagan's A Dictionary for the Modern Flutist was first published in 2009, the first flute specific dictionary to be compiled. The second edition was published in 2019. The Dictionary is intended for the modern flautist who plays the Böhm system flute or the Baroque flute. Through her diligent and meticulous research Susan has greatly extended the offerings in the second edition. Susan explains that she wanted to write a dictionary of terms, so the biographies are only of those people mentioned in the definitions. She outlines her choices for the Dictionary in the Introduction. After Susan researched and wrote the definitions, they were sent to experts to be critiqued, and most definitions were read by at least five people to ensure their accuracy. This has resulted in a long list of acknowledgments.

The Dictionary has over 1,600 entries and there are more than 150 carefully presented and labelled illustrations and photos. Each entry has bibliographic cross references to allow further research. The entries are very comprehensive and include descriptions of different types of flutes, flute parts, playing techniques, acoustics, articulation, harmonic, intonation, ornaments, flute making, flute music and books, historically important flautists, and much more. There are eighteen Appendixes on a wide variety of topics by invited contributors, including 'An Easy Guide to Checking Your Flute's Tuning and Scale' by Trevor Wye, 'Flute Clutches' by David Shorey, 'Early Music on Modern Flute' by Barthold Kuijken, 'Crowns and Stoppers' and 'Boehm Flute Scales from 1847 to the Present: The Short Story' by Gary Lewis, 'Anatomy of the Human Head and Neck', 'Orchestra and Opera Audition Excerpts' and 'Beatbox Flute' by Greg Patillo, A 'Selected Bibliography' completes the list of offerings.

I have found that the Dictionary is very hard to put down, being tempted to read yet another entry! It is a

wonderful resource for all flute players. Many of the descriptions of recent developments in flute types and design and recently evolved playing techniques are not currently included in other reference books.

A Dictionary for the Modern Flutist is a hard-bound publication which will ensure that it survives continuous usage for many years. Susan Maclagan has done a wonderful job!



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Not directly related to the review, I love the sentence in their message from the Society President, above – "…it is up to you what your musical journey will be."

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