

Kansas State Honor Flute Choir

by

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Bachelors of Music with a minor in French

A FINAL HONORS PROJECT

submitted in accordance with the University Honors Program requirements

School of Music Theatre and Dance  
College of Arts and Sciences

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Manhattan, Kansas

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Approved by:

Dr. Karen Large

## **Abstract**

The Kansas State Honor Flute Choir is an ensemble of flute players in grades 5- 12. The ensemble was auditioned and led by Dr. Karen Large and myself. The purpose of creating this ensemble was to engage flute players in the Manhattan area and the surrounding communities and challenge these students to explore aspects of the flute that are outside the regular 5-12 band programs in the state of Kansas. These flute players were challenged to play music of a higher level in an ensemble where they play a different role in the ensemble than in a traditional band. Students also received the opportunity to play other flutes such as the Alto flute and Bass flute. This experience was culminated by a final concert.

This project took place in the spring semesters of 2014 and 2015. We worked to market the ensemble and well as adjust our expectations for the ensemble throughout the course of these two years. We began each year by picking repertoire that was at a level achievable by students of a grade level that we had determined would make up most of the choir. We planned rehearsals and the concert based on what the students had achieved.

This program was also a learning experience for me. I was the Assistant Director to this program and this experience was structured to give me an opportunity to conduct a flute choir, lead rehearsals to teach music in a timely manner and to aid my teaching. During this project we also planned to have me perform a solo with the flute choir and perform an arrangement of a Disney song for the younger students. Additional performances included a performance at the Kansas State University Flute Day.

Dr. Karen Large created the Kansas State Honor Flute Choir in 2014, and for the 2014 and 2015 seasons, I was the Assistant Director. The goals for the flute choir were first to challenge the flute players in the Manhattan and surrounding area and to expose them to alternative aspects of the flute. Second, to create a flute choir for students who were passionate about the flute and to provide students with the opportunity to express their passion for flute playing through an extra curricular that could be placed on a résumé. Finally, to provide an opportunity for the young flute players in the community to get to know one another and work together to create a sense of collegiality that would strengthen the flute community in later years.

In working on this project my objectives when working with the ensemble for my own personal development as an educator were first, to learn to select music that was appropriate for an ensemble of this level. My second goal was to gain experience auditioning students to discover student strengths for chair placement leading to an optimal ensemble experience. My third objective was to gain experience rehearsing a flute choir. My final goal was to reach out to the community by creating a relationship between the surrounding community and myself, formed on the basis of flute playing.

In 2014 Dr. Large and myself set out to expose the students in this flute choir to many genres of music and encourage them to play at a higher level by presenting them with challenging music. We had pieces that required the students to think about the lyrical aspects of the line as well as dynamics and phrasing. In this flute choir, those aspects were the focus in the pieces *Air from Suite in D* written by J.S.

Bach and arranged for flute choir by James Christensen, *All Through the Night* a Traditional Welsh Tune, and *Chaconne* by Henry Purcell and arranged for flute choir by James J. Pellerite. We also focused on technical playing. While we rehearsed this piece, we talked about how to practice the difficult passages as well as how to adapt the passages for musicians who were not at a level to attempt the passages yet. The piece that mainly focused on this was *Finale from "William Tell"* by Gioachino Rossini and arranged for flute choir by Richard E. Thurston. This piece was technical in all parts and was a challenge for all the students. We exposed the students to chamber music in which they would be completely responsible for their own part and would have to know their part that they played in the ensemble in order to play the piece at the highest ability level. These pieces were *Carol of the Bells* by Mykola Leontovych for the Elementary and Middle School students and *A Gaelic Offering, Movement 1 Rose Cottage* by Catherine McMichael for the high school students. We also tried to expose the students to pieces with challenging rhythms to allow them to develop their rhythmic accuracy. The piece designed for this was an arrangement created by myself of Randy Newman's *You've got a Friend in Me*. The final aspect we exposed students to was playing with a soloist. We played an arrangement of Mozart's *Andante in C Major*, which was arranged by Shaul Ben Meir. I was the soloist for this piece. With these pieces we gave the flute players the opportunity to expand their horizons in technique, musicality and ensemble playing.

In the 2015 season, we had a different group of players. We had flautists that returned from the previous year and we had some younger players who were new to the ensemble. Since the 2014 season we also had some students who had

graduated and were no longer eligible. Overall the number of students who participated stayed the same. In the 2014 choir, we felt that the students had been challenged however we felt that emphasis should be placed on performing well in an ensemble as well. So in 2015, we kept the music challenging but chose pieces at a level that would allow the students to be challenged but also allow them to perform well. Taking these factors into account, we also thought about the level of student we were reaching out to. This being the second year, we were able to better judge the repertoire level that was appropriate. This year our technical challenges were in the pieces *Native American Trilogy* by Charles Wakefield Cadman and arranged by Ann Cameron Pearce and *Suite Butterfly* by Phyllis Avidan Louke. These two pieces were the longest of the pieces and required the most endurance to play. These pieces allowed students to perform either as one person on a part or with two people in order to develop the ability to play in an ensemble. The students also played 3 quartets, which were conducted by myself. These quartets were *Contredanse* by Mozart, *The Village Maid* by Jean- Philippe Rameau, and *The Sparrow's Party* by Antonin Dvorak. The quartets provided challenges of musicality and were short enough to make it possible to work on these aspects of playing but also play well. These pieces explored a variety of styles and dynamics, which made musicality an even greater focus. The final piece that we played was called *Extended Techniques- Double the Fun* also by Phyllis Avidan Louke, which introduced the students to beginning extended techniques, which are a fun aspect of the flute. We worked with Key Clicks, Flutter Tonguing and using only the headjoint in order to make sound. With these pieces, we challenged the students to reach for higher

performance levels by increasing musicality, working on technique and introducing new techniques.

The overall goals of this project were to expand the horizons for flute players in grades 5- 12 in the Manhattan and surrounding areas, give students extra curricular activities that would benefit their flute playing in the future, and to provide an opportunity for collegiality between flute players in the community. In creating this flute choir, Dr. Large and myself have addresses these goals through repertoire choices, part placement as well as interaction with the students. As for my personal objectives in assisting with this project, I believe that through, holding auditions with Dr. Large, choosing repertoire for the season and conducting rehearsal while aiding students, that I have met them. With this project, Dr. Large and myself have reached out to the community in order to create an educational experience that can grow into a staple of the community and advance flute playing in Manhattan and the surrounding area.

## **Kansas State Honor Flute Choir Concert**

Director: Karen McLaughlin Large

Assistant Director: Chelsea White

Monday, March 10, 6:00 p.m.

Kirmser Hall, McCain Room 204

### PROGRAM

Air from the Suite in D J.S. Bach/arr. James Christensen

Andante in C W.A. Mozart/arr. Shaul Ben Meir  
Chelsea White, soloist

All Through the Night Traditional Welsh Tune

You've Got a Friend in Me Randy Newman/arr. Chelsea White

Chaconne Henry Purcell/arr. James J. Pellerite

Carol of the Bells Mykola Leontovych  
Middle and Elementary School Flutists

A Gaelic Offering Catherine McMichael  
I .Rose Cottage  
High School Flutists

Finale from "William Tell" Overture Gioachino Rossini/arr. Richard E. Thurston

### **Kansas State Honor Flute Choir Personnel**

April Ascher, Elizabeth Baker, Makayla Finch, Jamie Hankins, Luke Hugunin, Anna Huey, Cooper Lohman

A Video of This performance can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/SQT5sUydV-o>

# **Kansas State Honor Flute Choir Concert**

Director: Karen McLaughlin Large

Assistant Director: Chelsea White

Assistant Director in Training: Jayne Klinge

Monday, March 09, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Kirmser Hall, McCain Room 204

## PROGRAM

Native American Trilogy

I. The Place of Breaking Light

II. From the Long Room of the Sea

III. Her Shadow

Charles Wakefield Cadman/

arr. Ann Cameron Pearce

Jeremey Reynolds, percussion

Bailey Eisenbraun, percussion

Contredanse

W. A. Mozart

The Village Maid

Jean-Philippe Rameau

The Sparrow's Party

Antonin Dvorak

Extended Techniques – Double the Fun

Chopsticks (Key Clicks)

Telephone (Flutter Tonguing)

Yo Yo Tricks (Headjoint Only)

Phyllis Avidan Louke

Suite Butterfly

I. Caterpillar

II. Chrysalis

III. Butterfly

Phyllis Avidan Louke

## **Kansas State Honor Flute Choir Personnel**

April Ascher, Jamie Hankins, Anna Huey, Kailey Koopman,

Shaina Krainbill, Cooper Lohman, Maggie Miksch



