



Staccato with Judy Dines, Flute

By David Connor, Community-Embedded Musician

After watching her perform Schubert's Second Symphony, I wanted to know how Judy Dines practices her staccato articulation to get it to sound so clean.

Here is her favorite exercise and instructions for practicing staccato. This is a great exercise to practice on any instrument – strings, winds, brass and some percussion instruments (those able to sustain notes: vibraphone, bass drum, triangle, etc.). This can be practiced on a single note, scales, etudes, or any piece of music that requires a staccato articulation.

“When practicing staccato, make sure the notes start and stop very quickly. This exercise should help with hearing exactly when to do that. Play this with a metronome set at ♩ = 76. This should be played on all notes.”

♩ = 76

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of ♩ = 76. The first measure contains four quarter notes. The second measure contains four eighth notes, each followed by a quarter rest. The third staff begins with four eighth notes, each followed by a quarter rest. The fourth measure contains four dotted quarter notes, each followed by an eighth rest. The piece concludes with a final whole note on a staff.

“Be very exact with the subdivision – long in bar 1, stop exactly where the rests are in bars 2-3, and very short in bar 4.”