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**Article Title:** *Busting Some Flute Myths*

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**Instrument**: Flute

**Summary:**

1. Myth #1: The thumb Bb key is inferior to other Bb fingerings
   1. There is no sound difference among the three Bb fingerings
   2. Each has its place
   3. Don’t slide the thumb Bb to the B natural
2. Myth #2: Pull the headjoint out as much as necessary to bring the flute into tune
   1. Pulling the headjoint out too much often makes matters worse instead of better
   2. The flute is manufactured to produce the best pitch with the headjoint pulled out an 1/8” to 1/4”
   3. Many young players play with the headjoint positioned too high on their lip, causing the air to go across the hole too much.
   4. The correction should be more so bringing it down and perhaps rolling it in
3. Myth #3A: Flute vibrato cannot be taught
   1. Vibrato does occur naturally, and it is almost always wrong when it does.
   2. Some students can produce the correct vibrato from just hearing it, others need guidance
4. Myth #3B: A proper vibrato is a diaphragm vibrato, and throat vibrato should be avoided at all costs
   1. Diaphragm vibrato is a misnomer, the diaphragm is an involuntary muscle.
   2. It is possible to produce vibrato with the abdominal muscles
   3. A controlled throat vibrato produces the best results
5. Myth #4: Flute fingerings are sacred and no alteration is acceptable
6. Myth #5: Never move the jaw
7. Myth #6: In tonguing, the tongue should come between the teeth
8. Myth #7: Learning to take a proper breath requires years of study, effort, and meditation
9. Myth #8: Flutists must learn to live with a sharp 3rd-space C#.
10. Myth #9: The low register is necessarily weak and there is nothing to be done about it
11. Mystery #1: How can I make a finely tapered release without the pitch going flat or dropping an octave?
12. Mystery #2: How can I develop more facile technique?
13. Mystery #3: How can I develop a fast double and triple tongue?