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**Article Title:***The Switch to Piccolo*

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**Instrumental:** Flute

**Summary:**

1. **History of the Piccolo**
   1. **In French music, the piccolo is called the petite flute**
   2. **German music, the piccolo is kleiner flöte**
   3. **In Italian it is the flauto piccolo or ottavino**
   4. **Descendant of the fife**
2. **Range**
   1. **The modern piccolo has a range of about 3 octaves, D5-C8**
   2. **In ensemble settings, the middle and higher register are used**
   3. **Composers often use the lower, mellow notes for affects**
3. **Specifications**
   1. **Piccolos are made in a variety of materials including wood, silver, plastic, or a combination**
   2. **Wooden piccolos are preferred for indoor bands and orchestras**
   3. **Silver or plastic are preferred for outside**
   4. **Most wooden piccolos do not have an embouchure plate which can be challenging for most students**
4. **How many piccolos?**
   1. **For indoor band/orchestra concerts one piccolo is preferred because of tuning**
   2. **In marching band it is better to have all flutes play piccolos due to projection**
5. **Getting started**
   1. **It’s best to assign a different piccolo player to each piece**
   2. **The piccolo is placed higher on the lip because the embouchure hole is smaller**
   3. **If a student plays piccolo for an entire year, they will lose their flute sound because of the change in embouchure**
6. **Seeing a pitch, hearing another**
   1. **Students may have trouble figuring out the octave they are playing because it sounds an octave higher than what’s written**
7. **Melodic work**
   1. **Many composers use the piccolo for melodic material in addition for punctuation or rhythmic intensity.**
   2. **Having a piccolo player work out of a flute method book will help prepare them for melodic material**
8. **Out of Tune?** 
   1. **Alternate piccolo fingerings are different than alternate flute fingerings**
   2. **A steady air stream with good support helps with intonation**
9. **Practicing**
   1. **Most professionals practice piccolo parts on the flute first.**
   2. **Many etude books for flute also work well with piccolo**
   3. **There are a few books specifically devoted to piccolo**
10. **Vibrato**
    1. **A tasteful vibrato enhances the entire sound of the group, since the piccolo is the top voice in an ensemble**
    2. **As the notes ascend, the vibrato speed should increase**
    3. **Piccolo players will generally have faster vibrato than flutes**
11. **Never be shy**
    1. **The piccolo is used for effect and should be heard**
12. **Safety**
    1. **Because of the loudness of the piccolo, it is encouraged that a piccolo player where ear plugs**
13. **Piccolo care**
    1. **Wood piccolos should be kept at an even temperature**
    2. **General tips for caring for the instrument**