

Franz Joseph Haydn

(1732-1809)

Haydn is one of the most famous Classical composers. He spent most of his life working for the Hungarian Prince Esterhazy and his family. This was a big job because Haydn composed music, rehearsed the court orchestra, and conducted two opera performances and two orchestra concerts each week. He wrote many works, including 104 symphonies, 25 concertos, 52 piano sonatas, and 24 operas.

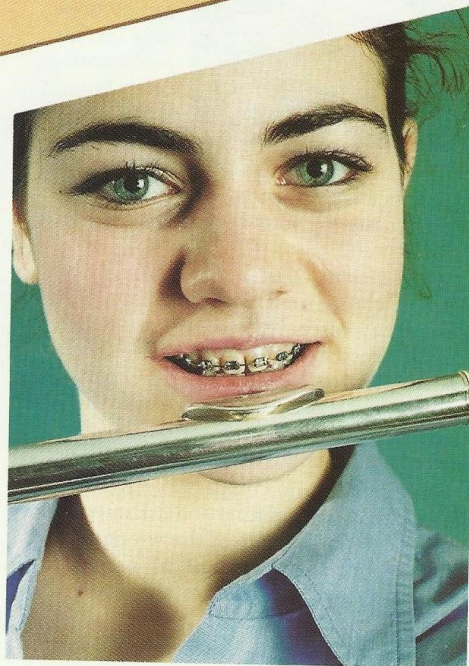
PLAYING WITH BRACES

One of the most difficult adjustments in learning to play the flute is accommodating to braces on your teeth. At first your mouth will hurt, especially between the front teeth and lips. Your gums may also be sore for a couple of days. As soon as you are able, start practicing again. Don't wait too long because it will take more time to adjust.

Whenever your braces are tightened, your gums will be tender. Even though it may hurt to play the flute, it is better to play a little bit each day until the tenderness subsides. Your mouth will feel full and you may have to pull your upper lip down a little more to cover all the hardware to form the proper embouchure. After awhile the feeling of fullness goes away and you will have to make only minor adjustments to your embouchure.

If you wear braces on both the upper and lower teeth, you may have to change your flute placement. Experiment with placing it a little higher or lower on your lip. If you feel as though your braces are cutting the inside of your lips, don't press the flute too hard against your mouth. You can also use some wax or duct tape on the rough edges to protect the inside of your lips.

If you have been playing the flute for awhile and have a good tone established, the braces may cause your sound to be unclear: the low register will practically vanish and the upper register will most likely crack. To correct the



problem, practice slurring chromatically one half step at a time starting on low A to B \flat , then B \flat to B, and so on, ascending throughout the range of the flute. When you get to the top, do the same exercise, descending down the range. If you find that you are aiming the airstream too high to compensate for the braces, the pitch will be sharp. Remember to open your throat and drop your jaw. Listen carefully as you practice and concentrate on making your tone clearer each day. In a short time your tone will be as nice and centered as it was before braces and it will be fun to practice again!