


## Cover page for Otilie Schillig Special Teaching Projects

Title of Proposed Project: <h3 style="text-align: center;">Alto Flute for Pedagogy and Applied Study</h3>		
Project Director (PD) Name: Olivia Boatman	PD Phone Number: 662-552-0724	PD Email: oboatman@colled.msstate.edu
PD Department: Department of Music	PD College: Education, College of	Estimated # of Students Impacted each Semester: 40-50
Requested Amount from Schillig Funds (\$ 3,000.00 maximum): \$3,000	Cost Share Amount (optional): \$0	Total Amount for Project: \$3,000
PD Signature: 		Date: 3-18-2024
Department Head Signature (if cost share included):		Date:
Co-PD Name:	Department:	Email Address:
Co-PD Name:	Department:	Email Address:
Co-PD Name:	Department:	Email Address:
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Date Received:	CTL Proposal Number:	File Location:

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## **Alto Flute for Pedagogy and Applied Study**

### **Ottilie Schillig Special Teaching Projects**

#### **Objective and Overview**

The objective of this project is to enhance the hands-on learning activities in Woodwind Methods (MUE-3222-01), Instrumental Methods (MUE – 3262), Woodwind Ensemble/Flute Choir (MU-2011-01), and Applied Flute (MUA-1110-01 and 02; MUA 2110-01 and 02; MUA 3110-01; 3112-01). On average it will impact 40-50 students a semester. It will engage students to experiment with a new instrument, learn the physical demands of a larger flute, and perform excerpts, solos, chamber, and band literature on the alto flute. Considered a harmony instrument, the alto flute is a member of the flute family that is pitched in the key of G, unlike the most commonly seen flute which is pitched in the key of C. The alto flute will allow students more musical freedoms and enhance the aural skill training for a transposing instrument. For Flute Choir, many scores call for C piccolo, C flute, G alto flute, and C bass flute. With the addition of an alto flute, the students will have the freedom for a broader musical repertoire and be given the chance to try, practice, and perform on a harmony instrument which provides support to the ensemble through a distinctive tone. For many student flutists, it is common to own a C flute but not a G alto flute. Typically, the harmony instruments are provided by the school or ensemble.

#### **Motivation**

Woodwind Methods, designed for k-12 instrumental majors, and Instrumental Methods, for the k-12 vocal majors, are essential courses in the music education degree plan. Flute Choir, open to anyone who can play the flute, offers students a chamber music ensemble containing instruments in the flute family. This course is open to any major at both the undergraduate and graduate level. This year, the Flute Choir will be traveling to San Antonio, TX in August to represent Mississippi State University in a recital performance at the National Flute Association Annual Convention. Applied Flute is designed for music performance, music education, and non-majors to dedicate a deeper study of the instrument through one-on-one instruction. With the addition of an alto flute, all the courses above would benefit greatly in lesson planning, execution of course materials, performance opportunities, creative research endeavors, and overall knowledge of the instrument family.

Figure 1: Trevor James Silver Plated Alto Flute from:  
<https://tjflutes.com/products/alto/performerseries/tjsilveraltoflutes>



### **Rationale for Requesting Funds**

Unfortunately, the Department of Music only owns one alto flute which is in desperate need of repair. According to department records, the current instrument was acquired in 1990. It has a broken case, several sticky/dirty pads, plating issues, small dent, and key mechanism issues. With the addition of a second alto flute, more students will be introduced to the instrument and have the chance to learn, practice, and perform on it for performance activities, classroom lesson plans, and creative research engagements. As our Music Department continues to grow, we are in need of a quality instrument to use in classes and ensembles.



Figure 2: Current MSU Alto Flute

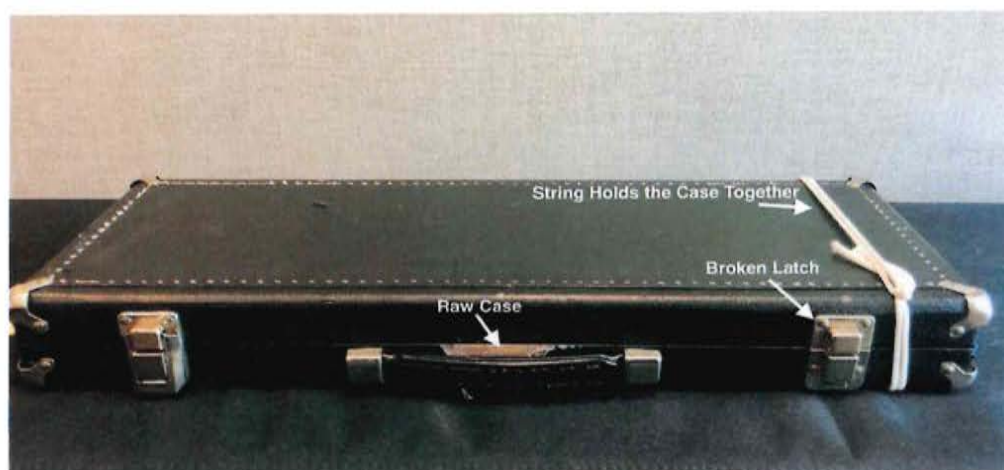


Figure 3: Current MSU Alto Case

### **Implementation and Student Response**

After funding is secured and an instrument can be purchased, it will immediately be used as a teaching, performance, and creative research tool in the following courses: Woodwind Methods, Instrumental Methods, Flute Choir, and Applied Flute. Through use of the older MSU alto flute and loaner instruments from personal collections and flute specialty stores, students have been introduced to members of the flute family. This has created a desire for more use of the instrument in greater detail. Due to the high demand, one unreliable school own instrument is not enough to serve all the courses. Students have expressed their enjoyment of playing the instrument in Flute Choir and audiences have conveyed the value that the low flute sound adds to the ensemble. Additionally for the non-flute player, it has been a gateway for learning in courses such as Woodwind Methods and Instrumental Methods. In an end of the semester essay, one student stated, "Having the [guest flute artist] masterclass and flute "petting zoo" of sorts also contributed to my appreciation of the instrument family." During the "petting zoo", students from the class had the chance to try a variety of flutes that a flute specialty store let us use. This semester in an Applied Flute lesson, a student selected an alto flute solo to be their focus in lessons. With a new alto flute, more students will have the chance to practice and incorporate it into their musical journey here at MSU.

### **Budget**

Funds in the amount of \$3,000 are requested for the purchase of a Trevor James alto flute. The Trevor James Silver-Plated Alto Flute has a sterling silver lip plate and riser which improves tone and projection of sound, the silver-plated body and mechanism makes the instrument lighter weight and a good financial investment, the pointed key arms are a sturdy design that helps pad life longevity, and the mother of pearl finger key construction offers ergonomic finger position for ease of playing. Additional characteristics such as a French style case and fleece-lined case cover will cushion the instrument for years to come providing two layers of protection.

### **About the Proposer**

Olivia Boatman is Assistant Professor of Flute in the Department of Music. She has the pleasure of working with students through Applied Flute, Woodwind Methods, Instrumental Methods, Flute Choir, Woodwind Ensembles, and the Community Music School. In addition, her to role at Mississippi State University, she is currently serving on the Flute Clubs Committee for the National Flute Association. She has performed and presented at numerous conventions and festivals including, the National Flute Association, Florida Flute Association, Wisconsin Flute Festival, Central Iowa Flute Workshop, Music by Women Festival, Midwest Band Clinic, College Music Society Southern Chapter, and many local and state band clinics.