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Investigating Twenty-five Volumes of The Flutist Quarterly: A Content Analysis

Ву

Maile Delores Mills

Thesis Approved:

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Investigating Twenty-five Volumes of *The Flutist Quarterly*: A Content Analysis Study

Ву

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Bachelor of Arts
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Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of
Eastern Kentucky University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Music
August, 2017

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents

Debra and Keo Mills

for their unwavering support.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank my advisor and mentor for this thesis, Dr. Christine Carucci, for her patience and guidance throughout my writing and research. I would also like to thank the other committee members, Dr. Kristen Kean, Dr. Bernardo Scarambone, and Dr. Thomas Couvillon, for their comments and assistance with my thesis. I would like to express my thanks to my family for their unwavering support and love throughout my experience in graduate school. Finally, I would like to most sincerely thank Kristina Lipscomb for being such a supportive colleague.

ABSTRACT

This study examines scholarly articles in twenty-five volumes of *The Flutist Quarterly*, which is published by the National Flute Association. Articles were specifically examined for emerging categories, and frequency and percentages of each was noted. In addition, major trends that have occurred within the periodical over the past twenty-four years were examined. Using a content analysis, N = 391 articles were coded to fit into ten prominent categories: artist profile, career-related, composition, health, historical, instrument, interview, pedagogy, performance practice, and other. Results indicated that "Artist Profile" (21.99%, n = 86), "Interview" (18.93%, n = 74), and "Historical" (16.11%, n = 63) categories were the most prominent. In addition, trends over the past twenty-five volumes have shown an emphasis on performers throughout the articles, as well as a tendency toward performance-based topics such as popular compositions and performance practices. The least popular areas of publication included pedagogy (5.11%, n = 20), health (4.09%, n = 16), career-related (3.32%, n = 13), and instrument (3.07%, n = 12) categories. Additional trends are noted to inform and advance the flutist community.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Known for its vast array of resources, including opportunities for professional, amateur, and blossoming young flutists, the National Flute Association provides flute enthusiasts a beneficial, informational network for flute pedagogy, methodology, research, and education. Founded in 1972 by Mark Thomas, The National Flute Association, also known as the NFA, is the largest flute organization in the world. In the NFA, approximately five thousand members from around the world, from more than fifty countries, join together both in person and online to support the organization's mission of "Inspiring Flutists, Enriching Lives" (National Flute Association, 2017). Members of the NFA include leading soloists, orchestral players, jazz and world music performers, teachers, adult amateurs, and students of all ages. The vision of the NFA is to be known as a premier resource worldwide, valued by its members, and relevant to all interested in music and the flute. Through the pursuit of their goals to encourage a higher standard of artistic excellence for the flute, its performers, and its literature, some key milestones that the NFA has achieved to date include being a liaison with more than two hundred United States flute clubs and extensive music commissioning activities. Annual commissions include promoting new works for the Young Artist and High School Soloist competitions and biennially for the Piccolo Artist competition. In addition, cultural outreach scholarships are offered in fifteen cities (National Flute Association, 2017). Through the NFA Music Library, the largest lending library of flute

music in the world, NFA members have access to a collection of more than fifteen thousand works.

The National Flute Association also holds annual flute conventions for members to gather and share their love of music and the flute. At the annual conventions, flutists can audition for master classes, perform with professional flute ensembles and flute choirs, compete with other flutists worldwide in various performance categories, and see the latest trends in flute music, flute accessories, flute instruments, and more from a wide variety of exhibitors.

As a "premier organization for the flute," the NFA has several core values that drive their efforts as a resource for their members:

The NFA honors, values, and respects the contributions of all members equally; promotes collegiality and embodies integrity; draws strength from our diversity and provides meaningful experiences to all members; promotes flute performance, pedagogy, and development by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas; enriches the repertoire for the flute through commissioning, special publications, and related activities; inspires and cultivates personal, professional, and artistic excellence (National Flute Association, 2017).

These core values of the NFA permeate throughout all the activities and publications that the NFA presents to the world of flutists. The most prominent publication that represents these core values of the NFA is *The Flutist Quarterly*, a publication that has been in existence since 1975. *The Flutist Quarterly* is a journal that provides valuable information to the members of the NFA. Published topics include flute pedagogy, as well as related topics in the areas of composition, history, and flute artistry. The

publication also offers interesting information on famous flute-makers, performers, composers of flute music, and flute related compositions.

Statement of the Problem

Throughout the forty-five years that the NFA has existed, there have been many opportunities presented for flutists to advance and share the knowledge and studies in our field through the annual NFA convention, the Graduate Research Competition, and also the leading publication of the NFA, *The Flutist Quarterly*. There is little information documenting the history and publication trends related to *The Flutist Quarterly*, which is important due to its ability to reach flutists on a national and international level.

The purpose of this study was to examine and catalog the published content of The Flutist Quarterly for trends over the last twenty-five volumes (1992-2016). Specific research questions were as follows:

- 1. What were the most prominent topics found within *The Flutist Quarterly* from 1992-2016?
- 2. Have any specific publication trends occurred in *The Flutist Quarterly* over the past twenty-five volumes?

Significance of the Problem

As the vision of the National Flute Association is "to be known as a premier resource worldwide, valued by its members, and relevant to all interested in music and the flute," (National Flute Association, 2017) it is essential that *The Flutist Quarterly*

represents a beneficial, relevant resource for not only the members of the NFA, but also to music educators throughout the world. Investigating the development of this journal will allow for greater insight into what kind of information the periodical is producing and, if any, what trends have occurred in the last twenty-four years of its publication. Determining how *The Flutist Quarterly* has been published in the past will provide information on how future publications of the journal can impact the sharing of flute knowledge with the world. If there are obvious trends in the information presented throughout the past twenty-five volumes of *The Flutist Quarterly*, bringing these to light will also allow for a more relatable publication to be created and shared with the flute community.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

Background of the National Flute Association

Mark Thomas, flutist and music educator, is a graduate of the Peabody Music Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland (Thomas, 2017). In 1972, he founded the *National Flute Association*, which began as an organization for flutists to share their love of music and the flute with each other. With the exception of local flute festivals and competitions hosted by the local flute clubs, there was not any large gathering of flutists or even flute conventions anywhere in the world at that time. The NFA was the first organization that offered a large-scale, international forum for flutists of all ages and backgrounds. This phenomenon eventually grew to include annual flute conventions presented by the NFA, which are the most well-known events hosted by the NFA. Mark Thomas received the *National Flute Association's* "Distinguished Service Award" in 2005 for his work in founding and developing the international organization and currently remains the Honorary Life President of the organization.

At the annual NFA flute conventions, which are hosted in a different major continental United States city every year, flutists from around the world gather to celebrate the accomplishments and progress of flutes and flute music. Throughout the conventions, many different workshops and sessions are offered, all covering various topics. Some of workshops from the past have included topics related to musician's health, performance, auditions, career advice, modern composition techniques,

performance practice, and much more. Additionally, the annual NFA conventions also host a variety of professional and amateur performance competitions for flutists, including solo categories in Baroque Flute Artist, Convention Performers, High School Soloist, Jazz Artist, Piccolo Artist, and Young Artist. There are also masterclass categories in Baroque Flute, Jazz Flute, Masterclass Performers, Orchestral Audition, and Piccolo Orchestral Audition, as well as performing opportunities for flute choir categories in Collegiate, High School, Jazz Flute Big Band, and Professional. Finally, there are non-performance categories in Arts Venture, Flute Choir Composition, Graduate Research, and Newly Published Music.

In an effort to innovate and draw in community support, the biennial *Arts*Venture Competition is "designed to reward new thinking and viable, innovative ideas"

by offering a grant to encourage "projects that approach performance and education in a new way (often through collaboration with communities or other genres or media)"

(The National Flute Association, 2017). This unique competition in the NFA supports the expansion and development of the music community by encouraging outreach and community support, and to draw new interest in the NFA and its mission.

In addition to performance events, masterclass opportunities, and commission projects, each NFA convention also hosts the notorious NFA Gala Dinner and concert, which honors Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, respects deceased accomplished flutists, and often presents premieres of the newest flute compositions. The annual NFA conventions are not only excellent educational events for flutists of all levels, but are also helpful for networking and establishing a presence within the flute community.

As an organization, the NFA publishes various beneficial resources, including *The Flutist Quarterly* magazine, *The Flutist's Handbook: A Pedagogy Anthology* by Michael Stoune, *Kincaidiana: A Flute Player's Notebook* by John C. Krell, two guidebooks of selected flute repertoire ("A Graded Guide for Teachers" and "A Graded Guide of Etudes, Daily Studies, and Method Books"), and five CDs in the NFA's Historical Series (William Kincaid, Joseph Mariano, Robert Willoughby, Maurice Sharp, and Frances Blaisdell). (National Flute Association, 2017)

Background of The Flutist Quarterly

In 1975, three years after the creation of the NFA, the leading publication of the National Flute Association was founded (The National Flute Association, 2017).

Previously titled *The Newsletter of the National Flute Association, The Flutist Quarterly* is recognized throughout the international flute community for its quality and visual appeal (The National Flute Association, 2017). According to the NFA web site:

The magazine features articles written by leading flute performers, scholars, and teachers and news about developments and accomplishments in the NFA membership and flute community at large. Article topics range from breaking discoveries and new insights in research and methodologies to in-depth analyses of new works. Profiles of the world's leading flutists and pedagogues, significant activities in communities from Boston to China and all points in-between, performance health insights, and developments in flute repair and manufacture are among topics explored in the magazine's feature articles. Regular departments include reports on flute club activities, Annual NFA Convention news and updates, obituaries, international news, news from and about the NFA, announcements of new products, and reviews of new CDs, music, and books pertaining to flute (The National Flute Association, 2017).

Throughout the forty-two different volumes of *The Flutist Quarterly*, this publication provides "information and articles about the performance, study, history, manufacture, and enjoyment of flutes, flutists, and flute music" (The National Flute Association, 2017).

Content Analysis Background

Content analysis was used as the primary framework for examining *The Flutist Quarterly* journals. Content analysis can be defined as "the systematic, objective, quantitative analysis of message characteristics" (Neuendorf, 2017, p. 1). It can include both human-coded analyses and computer-aided text analysis (CATA), and it can be used in many different ways to analyze the world around us.

As a growing method in the field of research, content analysis and its techniques have been rapidly increasing in range and usage. It is useful in fields of research where identifying and labeling trends in data allows for a better understanding of historical research patterns. Many fields have used content analysis for their research, with a long history of use in communication, journalism, sociology, psychology, and business. However, content analysis has expanded as an acceptable method of research in other fields, such as library and information science, in medical fields such as nursing, psychiatry, and pediatrics, as well as in many other fields (Neuendorf, 2017).

The field of music education has employed content analysis as a method of research and study for several important academic journals. This has allowed music researchers an opportunity to "reflect on our past accomplishments in order to gain perspective and to establish goals for the future" (Yarbrough, 1984, p. 213). As can be

seen in the works of Yarbrough and others (Diaz and Silveira, 2014; Goldenberg, 2006; Johnson and Miksza, 2012; Kantorski and Stegman, 2006; McCarthy, 1999), content analyses can allow for improvement and further development in the field of music.

Content analyses can be used to focus on the development and trends within prominent music journals, and how these different informational trends could be used to advance their related fields.

Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this study was to examine and catalog the published content of *The Flutist Quarterly* for trends over the last twenty-five volumes (1992-2016). Specific research questions were as follows:

- 1. What were the most prominent topics found within *The Flutist Quarterly* from 1992-2016?
- 2. Have any specific publication trends occurred in *The Flutist Quarterly* over the past twenty-five volumes?

Summary

Founded in 1975, *The Flutist Quarterly* is recognized throughout the international flute community for its quality and visual appeal and is known as a premier resource related to flutes and flutists throughout the world. To date, no studies have examined the content of the publications found within *The Flutist Quarterly*. The purpose of this study was to examine and catalog the published content of *The Flutist*

Quarterly for trends over the last twenty-four years (1992-2016). To best answer the research statement, a content analysis was used, based on existing work in the field of music (Diaz & Silviera, 2014; Goldenberg, 2004; Johnson & Miksza, 2012; Kantorski & Stegman, 2006; McCarthy, 1999; and Yarborough, 1984).

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

Procedure

For this study, articles (*N*= 391) from twenty-five volumes of journals spanning 1992-2016 were surveyed. For inclusion in this study, articles were determined based on their appearance within the "Features" section of *The Flutist Quarterly*, or were those which met the criteria of being scholarly and informative. Articles that were not reviewed include obituaries, reminisces, and pictorial memories; reflections or reports on events, including NFA convention or NFA committee news or reports; reviews of music, recordings, or products; letters to the editor/president; short stories, poems, or comics; ongoing columns; job postings; or other articles that did not fit the criteria of being scholarly and informative. Once appropriate articles were identified, the volume, edition year, and page number from each article were recorded. Reprints and sources of reprints were also noted. Each article was categorized by subject and subcategory, as deemed appropriate (see Table 1).

Table 1. Categories and subcategories of topics.

| Category | Subcategories |
|----------------------|---|
| Artist Profile | Composer, Performer, Professional |
| Career-Related | |
| Composition | |
| Health | |
| Historical | Composer, Composition, General, Instrument, Performer |
| Instrument | Care, Mechanics, Purchase |
| Interview | Composer, Conductor, Performer |
| Other | |
| Pedagogy | |
| Performance Practice | Extended Techniques/Modern Practices |

Classifications of categories and subcategories were determined before beginning the database research. Category and subcategory classifications were created based on topics of interest often discussed and researched both in the journal itself and popular topics of interest discussed, researched, and presented at the National Flute Association annual conferences. Using existing research as a guide (Diaz & Silviera, 2014; Goldenberg, 2004; Johnson & Miksza, 2012; Kantorski & Stegman, 2006; McCarthy, 1999; and Yarborough, 1984), categories were determined based on topic words or key phrases found within the articles or titles. Categories were defined as follows:

Artist Profile: Articles related to giving a description of a composer, performer or professional in the flute field. The subcategory field defines and lists the description of the artist profile as either composer, performer, professional, or other. If the profile

featured someone other than a composer, performer, or professional in the flute field, that was noted in the subcategory and notes sections of the database.

Career-Related: Articles related to acquiring a job or making a career as a musician.

Composition: Articles related to an original piece of music, either a song or an instrumental music piece, the structure of a musical piece, or the process of creating or writing a new song or piece of music; can sometimes be referred to as works of music.

Health: Articles related to a musician's wellness, occupational health, and injury prevention as well as techniques in modern health practices and education for musicians, such as body mapping and the Alexander Technique.

Historical: Articles related to music history, also known as historical musicology, which is the highly divers subfield of the broader discipline of musicology that studies music from a historical viewpoint. Subcategories included articles related to a specific composer, composition, general historical perspective, instrument, or performer.

Instrument: Articles related to instruments (particularly in the flute family), instrument fingering and techniques, instrument mechanics, instrument care, and instrument purchase. Subcategories included articles related to the care of the instrument, the mechanics of the instrument, or the purchase of the instrument.

Interview: Articles that contain an interview with composers, conductors, artists, and/or professionals. Subcategories included articles related to a specific composer conductor, or performer

Other: Articles that could not be categorized into another category but still met all of the criteria of an article for this study. Potential categories of these articles were placed in the "subcategory" section of the database.

Pedagogy: Articles related to the study of the methods and principles of music instruction.

Performance Practice: Articles related to musical techniques employed in specific musical genres during specific musical eras and is, quite often, referring to techniques that are implied, and not written or notated; also related to practice techniques that allow for further development and improvement in the playing of an instrument. A subcategory of this performance practice category was extended techniques/modern practices, which included articles related to unconventional, unorthodox, or non-traditional methods of singing or of playing musical instruments employed to obtain unusual sounds or timbres; these are also referred to as 20th or 21st century techniques and music.

To ensure reliability of the analysis procedures, a random selection of articles (20%, n = 78) were coded using similar procedures by a secondary researcher. Interrater reliability was calculated at 93%, demonstrating a strong consistency in the analysis and cataloguing process.

One influential limitation that significantly affected this research was an error in the National Flute Association's cataloguing of the journal set and volume numbers. At the start of the cataloguing process, many of the older journals (1992-2000) were not available in the NFA online library. Because of this, physical copies from several different libraries were used to complete the database. The National Flute Association began to create electronic copies of the older *The Flutist Quarterly* journals during this time and added them to the online library of their publications. During this addition to the online NFA library, it was noted that several of the older journals had been misprinted with incorrect catalogue journal set and volume numbers. This required a careful reexamination of the cataloging process used throughout this study.

RESULTS

After cataloguing all the articles (N=391) into the database outlines above, results were determined by examining trends in the data as they pertained to the initial research questions. Of the emerging article categories, the largest category was the artist profile category (n=86). The next largest categories were the interview category (n=74) and the historical category (n=63), as seen in Figure 1 below.

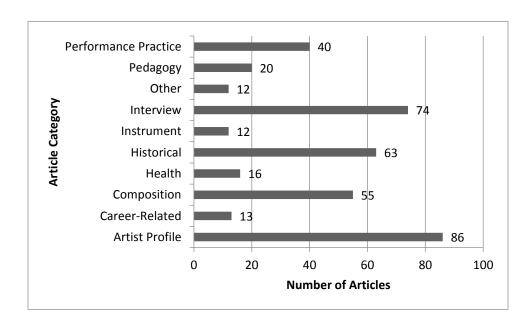


Figure 1. Frequency of articles by category over the last twenty-five volumes of *The Flutist Quarterly*.

The top three categories in *The Flutist Quarterly* over the past twenty-five volumes include, artist profile, interview and historical categories, which represent 57.03% (n=223) of all the articles researched. Subsequent categories were the composition category (14.07%, n=55), the performance practice category (10.23%, n=40), and the pedagogy category (5.12%, n=20). The least popular article categories included health (4.09%, n=16), career related (3.32%, n=13), instrument (3.07%, n=12), and other (3.07%, n=12) categories.

Larger categories were broken into subcategories, which provided a more informative analysis of *The Flutist Quarterly*. As seen in Figure 2, an overwhelming 88.37% (*n*=76) of the artist profile articles discussed performers, while the remaining 11.63% (*n*=10) of the artist profiles were about composers and professionals. Given that *The Flutist Quarterly* is geared towards being a "premier resource worldwide" for flutists, it is not surprising that much of the content is related to sharing information about the top flute performers.

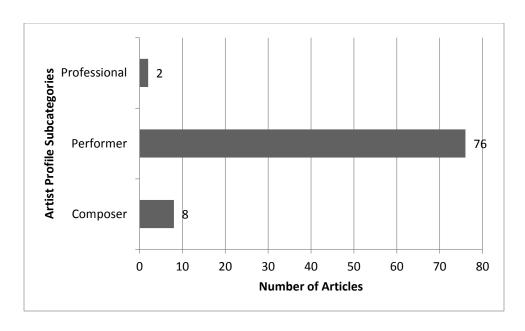


Figure 2. Frequency of artist profile article subcategories.

Throughout the historical article category, the articles were more evenly distributed throughout the subcategories (see Figure 3). The majority of the historical articles discussed general topics (30.16%, n=19) or composers (28.57%, n=18).

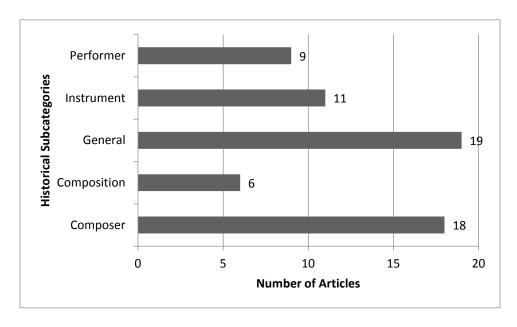


Figure 3. Frequency of historical article subcategories.

In the instrument category, a majority of the articles discussed the mechanics of the flute (n=10), which represents 83.33% of all the instrument-related articles (see Figure 4).

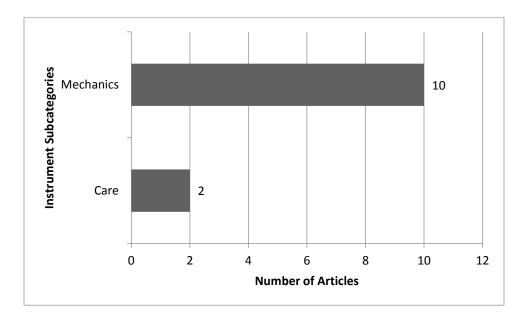


Figure 4. Frequency of instrument article subcategories.

Finally, in the interview article category, the majority of the articles represented the performer subcategory (n=62), with only a few denoting the composer (12.16%, n=9) or other (4.05%, n=3) subcategories. As seen in Figure 5, the majority of interviews involved performers, which accounted for 83.78% of the interview articles.

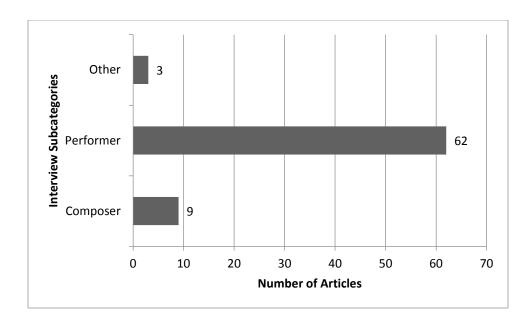


Figure 5. Frequency of interview article subcategories.

Over the past twenty-five volumes, *The Flutist Quarterly* has had a tendency to focus on artist profile, interview, and historical articles. Of those top three categories, which accounted for 57.03% (*n*=223) of the articles, there was an emphasis on performers. In the artist profile and interview categories, performers represented 86.25% (*n*=160) of the articles. An additional trend of *The Flutist Quarterly* over the past twenty-five volumes included an emphasis on flute-performance based topics, such as composition (14.07%, *n*=55) and performance practice (10.23%, *n*=40). Surprisingly, the least popular topics for articles included the pedagogy, health, career-related, instrument and other categories. Despite the publication's focus on flute performance and flute professionals, several artist profiles and interviews throughout the years featured other prominent artists and field professionals, including sculpture artists, pianists, clarinetists, trumpeters, historians and more. Over the twenty-five volumes,

the categories of article topics have become more defined and organized in the presentation of information, especially in the artist profile and interview articles.

Compared to the 1992 journals, artist profile and interview articles twenty-four years later have an organized, crafted layout that the authors follow in sharing their information, which allows for more attractive presentation and more effective communication. Over time, the artist profile and interview categories have grown significantly. In many of the past journals, these articles often discussed important performers and musicians that had a great influence in the flute community throughout their lifetime. However, in today's publications, authors discuss not only the great inspirations of the past, but also the most popular young artists and flute prodigies of the world.

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

After examining the published content of *The Flutist Quarterly* over the past twenty-five volumes, it was revealed that the artist profile category is the most popular topic for content. Specifically, artist profiles of performers tend to be featured. The next most popular categories included the interview and historical categories, with the performer interviews and general historical categories being the most prominent subcategories. The most significant information revealed by this content analysis is that articles related to pedagogy, health, careers, and instruments were published with the least frequency. While all of these topics are educational and essential to enriching the lives of flutists, the lack of articles in the smaller categories (pedagogy, health, career related, and instrument) has shown that this publication heavily leans toward performance related topics.

Sharing ideas in this published forum is a great way to promote artistic excellence and music education, especially for flutists, and publishing a greater variety of topics throughout the journals will allow for all flutists and flute enthusiasts to learn even more through this public forum and exchange of ideas. Embracing the need for more career-related and health related topics would expand the audience for the publication, as well as provide important information that is relevant to many in today's flute circles.

After reviewing these findings, it is clear that *The Flutist Quarterly* has a focus and emphasis on artist profiles and flute-performance related material. However, the prominence of this information throughout the publication does not relate very strongly to the goals and description of *The Flutist Quarterly*. According to the NFA website,

The magazine features articles written by leading flute performers, scholars, and teachers and news about developments and accomplishments in the NFA membership and flute community at large. Article topics range from breaking discoveries and new insights in research and methodologies to in-depth analyses of new works. Profiles of the world's leading flutists and pedagogues, significant activities in communities from Boston to China and all points in-between, performance health insights, and developments in flute repair and manufacture are among topics explored in the magazine's feature articles (The National Flute Association, 2017).

While many of these topics are thoroughly explored, such as the "profiles of the world's leading flutists and pedagogues" and "news about developments and accomplishments in the NFA membership and flute community at large," many of these subjects are not discussed very much at all. Even in the analyses of compositions throughout the years of 1992 to 2016, authors mainly discussed well-known flute repertoire and standard works rather than "new works." Future contributors of *The Flutist Quarterly* should focus on creating works in the less popular categories of pedagogy, health, career, and instrument topics in order to create a more well-rounded, informative resource for flutists and musicians.

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APPENDIX A:

List of Journal Articles by Year and Volume

Volume 17, Number 2

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