

Singing and Playing

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Notes

Finding the Note

The starting point with this technique is to learn to sing in unison with the flute. In practice it's not possible to sing every flute note unison at pitch, so most of the time you'll need to sing one or more octaves lower than the flute; but you're still aiming to sing the same note – if you're playing an E, sing an E, even if it's two octaves lower.

When you're practising the single long notes, play the flute note then find the most comfortable place in the voice to sing that note. For the lowest notes you'll probably find that you can sing them at pitch or one octave lower. As you work up the flute you'll find that the gap between the flute and the voice increases.

Similarly, in practising chunks of scales, find the most comfortable place in the voice to sing the whole group of notes.

Accuracy

It's important to work on singing accurately in tune with the flute note. This will improve with practice. Pay careful attention to *both* notes – the flute and the voice. You can use the same techniques that you would use in tuning the flute to another instrument, except in this case you need to hold the flute note steady and vary the voice pitch until it matches. It can be particularly useful to listen for any beating between the two notes.