

Your Flute Life & *Climate Change*

YOUR
FLUTE
WORKS



Two days ago the temperature was 66° in Yonkers (where I have my home shop) and by tonight it will be down to 19°. Sadly, climate change is here to stay for the foreseeable future.

This presents a true challenge for many flutists, because when your flute is hit with such large temperature and humidity fluctuations, your flute sound will suffer.

The simple explanation for this: flutes have numerous porous materials which expand and contract with temperature and humidity changes. This includes pads, felts, shims, paper adjustments, corks, foam rubber and even your head cork.

But, there is a simple solution to navigating the unpredictable conditions presented by climate change. Advice I have shared with countless flutists has helped navigate extreme weather spikes, and/or travel to new climates...and there are only five words to remember:

- Create the Opposite Indoor Climate •

When the cold, dry air of February (including Dec. Jan. or Mar.) causes your flute sound to become thin, uncentered, and altogether unsatisfying - that is the time to boil water (for about 20 minutes at a stretch) with your flute in an adjoining room. You can either be playing it, or simply have the flute in the case with the lid open.

When the temp./humidity is suddenly high, your practice space may be muggy. Pads become sticky and leaky...and response is slow. Time to use your dehumidifier or air-conditioner. (Using the AC - but not at a cold setting - is a *must* if you have just gotten off a plane, coming from a cold, dry climate to a warm, humid one.).

Always use indirect exposure with AC, dehumidifier or boiling water. In other words, keep your flute at least 15 ft. away from the source.

As we weave our way through these challenging times, this approach - which you may need to change from day to day - will help to keep your flute music sweet & strong.