

March 4, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Sammy Holloman has been studying various solo flute works that incorporate a variety of extended techniques for the instrument. In learning these pieces, Sammy has heavily researched extended techniques for the flute, how to produce the various techniques, and how to teach these techniques to future students. Our lessons became highly focused on discovering, analyzing, and understanding how to produce these non-traditional timbres on the instrument.

In addition to us spending over half a semester of lessons on isolating, layering, and choregraphing countless extended techniques that were completely new to Sammy as of last year, we also used M495 and M730D to create projects that coincided with her work in lessons. M495 is a performance and project-based class for the flute studio. For M495, Sammy created an entire Instagram series that she shared on her professional page, @sammyhollomanflute, and on her YouTube page, Sammy Holloman Flute, creating different tutorials on how to play the different extended techniques Ian Clarke included in *Zoom Tube*. This was an important project for Sammy to rearticulate what she has learned in lessons while also creating valuable content for her online portfolio as she applies for collegiate teaching jobs in the future. For M730D, a project-based class for graduate students in my studio, Sammy and I spent an entire semester learning to write various proposals, with an emphasis on extended techniques, for flute conferences around the country. After mentoring Sammy on writing effective conference proposals, I encouraged her to submit her final drafts to various conferences. The first proposal Sammy ever submitted was selected; she was offered a 50-minute session to teach the various extended techniques used in Ian Clarke's *Zoom Tube* at the Flute Society of Greater Philadelphia Flute Fair in 2022.

Through Sammy's research on understanding and performing extended techniques on the flute, she has mastered an incredibly challenging piece in the flute repertoire and has inspired others to begin tackling this genre of music. I often post clips from students' lesson videos to different online flute forums, sharing the work and love between my students and I. Sammy's lesson videos on *Zoom Tube* gained a lot of attention, with several commentors sharing their newfound inspiration to finally learn this piece. After Sammy performed *Zoom Tube* at various recitals, underclassmen in the studio showed an interest in learning and performing this work. Luckily, these students now have the option to bring *Zoom Tube* to their lessons with me, or they can schedule lessons with Sammy, where I know they will be given clear and digestible advice for learning this masterpiece.

Sincerely, Nina Assimakopoulos Flute Professor West Virginia University College of Creative Arts

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