

-Featured Flautist of the Month-

Gyula Czeloth-Csetényi

Gyula Czeloth-Csetényi is a famous Hungarian flautist. He has studied at the Bartók Conservatory, the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich and the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, from where he graduated with honours in 1997. After the collapse of communism he was the first to visit Sir James Galway's Seminar from Hungary in Switzerland between 1993 and 1995. He has performed across Europe and Asia and also finds the time to teach. Beside his classic repertoire he plays in a jazz band where his own compositions are performed.

We are delighted that Gyula has taken some time out from his busy schedule to do a quick interview for our FriendlyFlutes readership!



At what age did you start to play the flute?

I was 11 when I first started to play the flute. I started out on the piccolo when I was 10, it was small like me! I was small for my age and there few quality flutes available in Hungary at the time (around 1980)

What did you find hardest when you first started playing?

After a year of studying the piccolo I progressed onto the flute. At first I found it difficult; the flute was very heavy and hard work for my arms and fingers. It was also harder to play as you need bigger lungs. I did not enjoy the first month of flute!

What was your first flute?

My first flute was an East-German flute called a *Simfonia*. The mouthpiece was made from plastic and it did not connect properly to the headjoint, it had a C foot and a G-A trill. Before joining the conservatory I started to play a Yamaha 211, which was a huge improvement.

If you could give the beginner flautist one piece of advice what would it be?

Don't hurry, try to be patient. I think it takes at least a year of playing to master the basics and to become comfortable with the instrument.

What is your favourite piece of music for the flute?

That is a difficult question! There are so many great pieces from every era. I really enjoy Gaubert's Sonatas and Ibert's Concerto

What types of music do you like listening to?

I like listening to all types of music, depending on my mood, although I still prefer playing classical pieces. I do enjoy playing jazz pieces and take the opportunity to do so whenever possible.

What has been your favourite performance/gig to date?

I really enjoyed playing with Phillip Moll in 1993-1994 at James Galway's Seminar, we performed Lennox Berkeley's Sonata and Reinecke's Ballada. I have also done some of my own radio broadcasts, playing Milhaud Sonata, Denissow's Preludium and Air with Henriett Roman. More recently I had the pleasure of performing Rahminow Sonata with the pianist Gabor BARTA.

Thanks Gyula