

Nestor Herszbaum. *Alternative Fingerings for the Flute*. Self-published, 2003.

Paperback/spiral bound, 133 pages. Suggested retail price: \$23 (plus shipping).

Website: www.herszbaum.com.

Alternative Fingerings for Flute has quickly become my favorite fingering reference book. Herszbaum, a teacher and orchestral flutist, has created a thorough and easy-to-use resource. He includes basic fingerings, piano and forte fingerings, and trills in a "quick reference" section. This is followed by alternative fingerings and trills, which are organized by octave, including altissimo fingerings up to G4. A final section includes "extra" fingerings for tremolos, harmonics, and other unusual fingerings. In each category, using a system of graphics, Herszbaum suggests fingerings to raise or lower pitch, to change the color of a note, and to aid in technical facility in fast passages.

This work is particularly appealing for a number of reasons. First, the graphic layout is gorgeous and easy to read. Unlike fingering charts that rely on a complicated number system, Herszbaum has created a pictorial chart for each fingering. A flutist can simply look at the picture and almost instantly play the new fingering without having to "translate" from a number system. Secondly, the book is organized very clearly for quick reference. And finally, the number of fingerings for each note is quite extensive.

Herszbaum's website is a strong companion to the fingering guide, listing errata, a "fingering of the month," and excellent links to other flute websites.