

From My Practice Journals

Notes & discoveries from my ongoing practice

Direction Replaces Force

I’m always looking for ways to let the hands do less rather than more. Recently, I found that when I gave my left hand a clear direction — away from the wrist and underneath the third finger — something interesting happened. Instead of trying to place the index finger and thumb separately, they seemed to find their places on their own.



> *“When I got the direction away from the wrist underneath the third finger of the left hand, suddenly the index and the thumb were exactly right.”*

Sometimes the answer isn't another adjustment. It's simply finding the right direction.

New Piccolo Music!



I've been writing quite a bit for piccolo lately—but not necessarily the kind of music people expect from the instrument.

Change of Course, Gossamer, Hourglass, and *I Wish* each explore a different place, mood, or state of mind. I've brought the four pieces together in a new collection called **Inner Landscapes**.

The piccolo is capable of much more than brilliance and height. It can also be intimate, expressive, and mysterious.

Each piece is available separately for $15, or purchase the complete four-piece Inner Landscapes collection for $40.

You can watch performances of *I Wish* and *Gossamer* on my Piccolo YouTube playlist and on the *Inner Landscapes* product page.

Inner Landscapes is available now at the Schocker Shop.

Listen to Inner Landscapes

Shop Inner Landscapes



Behind the Music: A Conversation with Jenny Cline

I recently sat down with Jenny to talk about the piccolo and the music behind *Inner Landscapes*. In this excerpt, I share how one commission inspired three more pieces—and why I wanted to explore the piccolo's lyrical, expressive side.



Pu Yu Wu - Gulgong, Australia



Marielle Brown - Pittsburgh, PA

A Special Honor

I was honored when two of my students recently presented concerts devoted entirely to my music.

I'm especially happy when my more recent publications find their way onto concert programs—it's wonderful to know these pieces are being discovered, explored, and shared with audiences.

Each player brings something personal to the music. As both their teacher and the composer, it means a great deal to see people making my music their own.

Thank you, Pu Yu and Marielle, for the care and imagination you brought to these programs.

Gary's "Less Sweet" Pumpkin Cardamom Muffins





I like to tweak recipes, especially when they’re sweeter than I want them to be. These pumpkin cardamom crumb muffins from The New York Times were no exception.

I cut the sugar in the batter by half a cup, used half the pumpkin, and added a small mashed banana. For the crumb topping, I cut in very cold butter instead of melting it—I much prefer making crumbs that way. A little flaky sea salt on top before baking, and they came out just right - still sweet, but not cloying.

Warm spices, a crumbly topping, and not too sweet. I’m very happy with these!

Private Lessons With Me



I teach flutists of many levels, including amateur players who simply love to learn.

Contact me for information about private lessons, offered in person in New York City or online.

👉 ***Contact Gary***