

Is this the right instrument for you

Because the Zen Flute is controlled by mouth shape in much the same way as whistling, it is highly intuitive. But it does take some practice.

When using an external synthesizer, the Zen Flute works best with instruments with slow attack and delay rather than percussive type instruments where movements between notes produce arpeggiation. The SWAM procedural synthesizers work well with the Zen Flute.

Importantly, the Zen Flute must produce an audible pilot tone to work. For most people this tone does not present a problem when they are wearing headphones and listening to an actual synthesized sound or working in a modestly amplified environment. But in the former case, the pilot tone can disturb people in the area of playing who cannot hear the synthesizer, like a low amplitude meandering theremin, and it can be unexpected to those first using the Zen Flute. Some pilot tone bleed-through to the performer is helpful for fast or large interval no changes. The pilot tone does not appear in the Zen Flute audio signal.

It is not clear whether the Zen Flute can work in a highly amplified environment that might drown out the pilot tone microphone. Anybody performing in these venues please let me know and I'll stop by and listen:).