



The Complete Recorder Resource: Level 1 All About the Recorder

By Denise Gagné
Published by Themes & Variations

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All About the Recorder

The recorder is a very old instrument. The recorder was popular during the 16th and 17th centuries. Many famous composers of that time, including **Bach**, **Handel**, and **Telemann**, wrote music for the recorder.



Bach



Handel



Telemann

Types of Recorders

The recorder is made in different sizes. The smallest is a **garklein** recorder that is only six inches long! It is difficult to play because of the tiny finger holes, so the **descant** or **sopranino** recorder is used more often for the highest notes. The recorder that beginners usually play is the **soprano** recorder.



Soprano Recorder

There is also an **alto**, **tenor**, and a **bass** recorder. These five recorders can play five part music, just like a choir can sing in four or five parts. A recorder choir is called a **consort**.



Sopranino



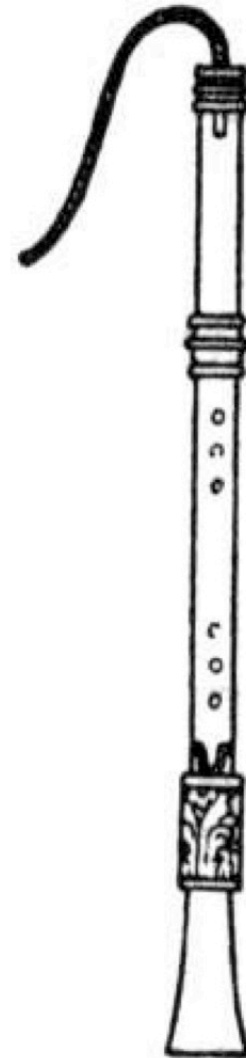
Soprano



Alto



Tenor



Bass

Getting Started

All the recorders have eight holes. The LEFT hand covers the thumb hole at the back of the recorder and the first three holes. The RIGHT hand covers the four holes at the bottom of the recorder. (Some recorders have divided holes at the bottom.)



Think of covering the holes with your “fingerprint.” Use the pads of your fingers to cover the holes, not the tips.



Making a Sound

Sound is made by blowing softly into the recorder mouthpiece. It is very easy to overblow the recorder and make a harsh sound. Blowing softly and steadily, as if you were blowing bubbles, makes the best sound.





Each note should be started with the syllable 'doo' or 'too.' This is called **tonguing** the note. The air should be continuous, interrupted only briefly by the tongue when a new note is begun.

How to Care for the Recorder

7. After playing, clean out the inside of your recorder with a narrow piece of cloth wound around the cleaning rod.



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