

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

All About The Recorder class: \_\_\_\_\_

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. 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 holes, so the **descant** or **soprano** recorder is used more often for the highest notes. 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**.

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.)

Sound is made by blowing softly into the recorder mouthpiece. It is very easy to overblow the recorder and make a harsh ugly sound. Blowing softly and steadily 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

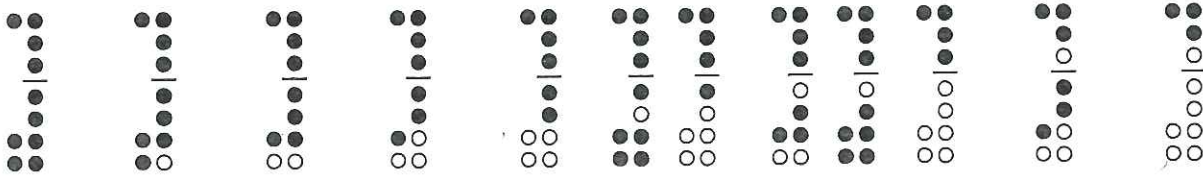
1. Recorders all look alike. Put your name on your recorder and on your case with a permanent marker. If you forget your recorder in the music room, your teacher will know it is yours.
2. Be careful not to bang the recorder against anything. Plastic can chip or crack.
3. Keep the mouthpiece clean. You can use a small brush or a pipe cleaner and water to wash out your mouthpiece.
4. Plastic recorders can be washed once in a while in warm, soapy water.
5. If your recorder is hard to put together, you can put a little Vaseline on the joints. If the joints are clean, they shouldn't need anything.
6. Keep your recorder in its case when you are not using it.
7. After playing, clean out the inside of your recorder with a narrow piece of cloth wound around the cleaning rod.



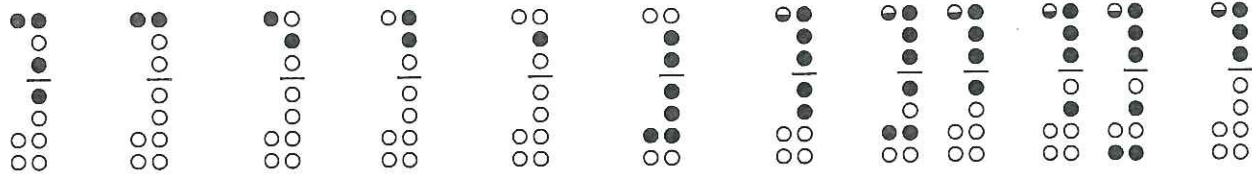
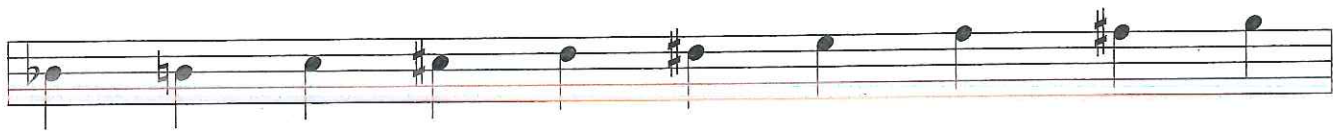
### Supplies Needed to Care for the Recorder:

- \* A cleaning rod and a narrow piece of cloth
- \* A small mouthpiece brush or a pipe cleaner

# Soprano Recorder Fingerings



Baroque German Baroque German



Baroque German Baroque German



Your *left* hand goes at the top of the recorder, and is used to cover the thumb hole at the back of the recorder, and the first three holes on the front of the recorder.

Your *right* hand goes at the bottom of the recorder. You use your right hand to cover the holes at the bottom of the recorder.

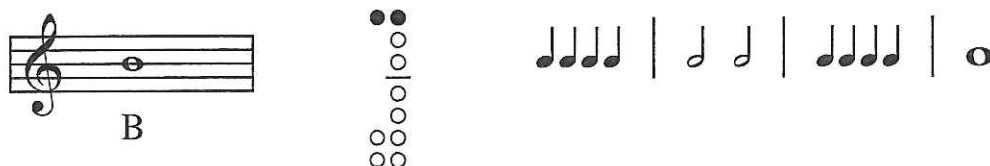
The circles on the fingering chart represent the holes on the recorder. When the circle is filled in, cover that hole. When only half the circle is filled in, cover half the hole.

**Two kinds of recorders:** German fingering recorders use a simple F fingering. English, or Baroque recorders use a forked F. How can you tell which recorder you have? Play an F on the piano. If your recorder sounds the same as the piano when you play the simple fingering for F, you have a German fingering recorder. If your recorder sounds higher in pitch than the piano, you need to use the Baroque fingering - the forked F to make your pitch match. On the fingering chart, the German and the Baroque fingerings are labelled. Many recorder manufacturers print the letter G or a B under the thumb hole on the back of the recorder. If your recorder has the letter G under the thumb hole, it is a German fingering recorder. If your recorder has the letter B under the thumb hole, it is a Baroque recorder. Different brands of recorders may require slight alterations of the fingerings shown, especially in the high register. If a note does not sound in tune with the fingering shown, try altering the fingering or adjusting tuning by slightly opening or closing the thumb hole.

## Let's Begin:

Whisper this pattern: doo doo doo doo doo....doo..... doo doo doo doo doo.....  
When you say doo, your tongue lets the air out. This is called tonguing. You should blow into your recorder the same way, connecting the notes.

Cover the hole at the back of the recorder with your left thumb, and the top hole of the recorder with your left pointer finger and play this pattern on the note B.

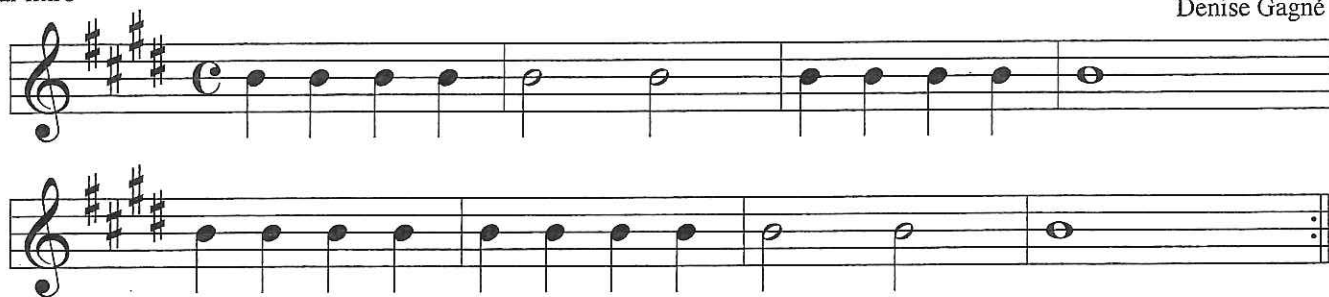


Always blow gently.....whisper warm air into the recorder.

### 1. Just B

2 bar intro

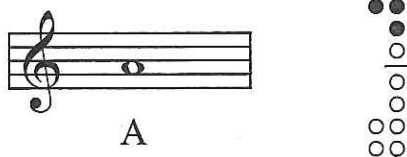
Denise Gagné



Cover the hole at the back of the recorder with your left thumb, and the top two holes of the recorder with your pointer and middle fingers and play this pattern on the note A:



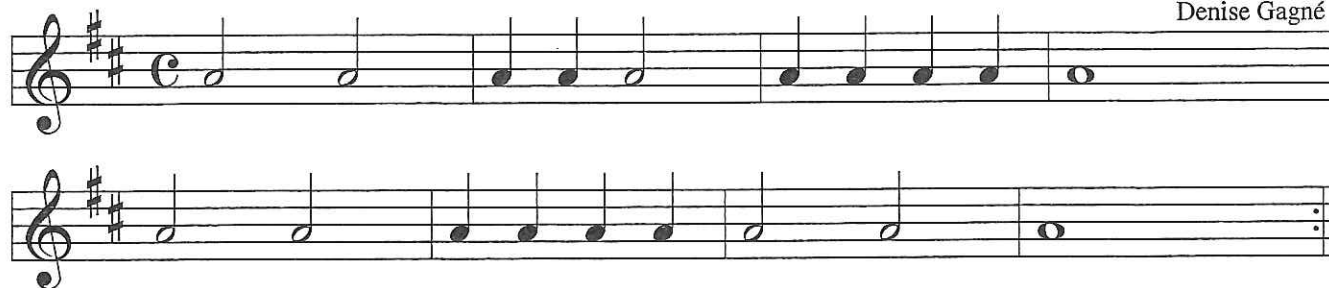
Remember to blow gently and to begin each note with doo.



### 2. Just A

2 bar intro

Denise Gagné



### 3. A and B Blues

2 bar intro

Denise Gagné

Three staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). The first staff contains a 2-bar intro: a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5. The second staff contains a 2-bar intro: a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5. The third staff contains a 2-bar intro: a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5.

### 4. Just G

2 bar intro

Denise Gagné

A musical staff showing a single G note on the second line of the treble clef. Below the staff is the letter 'G'. To the right is a guitar fretboard diagram with six strings and five frets. The G chord is indicated by solid black dots on the 3rd fret of the 6th string, the 2nd fret of the 5th string, and the 3rd fret of the 4th string. Open circles on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd strings indicate they are played open.

Two staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). The first staff contains a 2-bar intro: a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5. The second staff contains a 2-bar intro: a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5.

Name Your Notes:

Two staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). The first staff contains a sequence of notes: B4, A4, G4, followed by four blank lines. The second staff contains a sequence of notes: B4, A4, G4, followed by four blank lines.

## 5. G and A Blues

2 bar intro

Denise Gagné

Musical notation for 'G and A Blues' in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The second and third staves repeat this melody.

## 6. Side Step

2 bar intro

Denise Gagné

Musical notation for 'Side Step' in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The second staff repeats this melody. Below the first staff, the letters 'G' and 'A' are written under the first two notes, followed by a series of horizontal lines.

## 7. Au clair de la lune

2 bar intro (repeats)

French

Musical notation for 'Au clair de la lune' in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The second staff repeats this melody. Below the first staff, the French lyrics are written: 'Au clair de la lune mon ami Pierrot,'. Below the second staff, the French lyrics continue: 'Prête-moi ta plume pour écrire un mot.'



Au clair de la lune  
 Mon ami Pierrot,  
 Prête-moi ta plume  
 Pour écrire un mot.  
 Ma chandelle est morte,  
 Je n'ai plus de feu.  
 Ouvre-moi ta porte,  
 Pour l'amour de Dieu!

*In the light of the moon  
 My friend Pierrot,  
 Lend your feather (pen) to me  
 To write a word.  
 My candle is finished  
 I don't have any fire. (light)  
 Open your door to me,  
 For the love of God!*

# 8. Hot Cross Buns Theme and Variations

2 bar intro

Theme:

Traditional

Hot cross buns, Hot cross buns,  
One a pen - ny, two a pen - ny, Hot cross buns.

The musical notation for the theme is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first two phrases: 'Hot cross buns, Hot cross buns,'. The second staff contains the melody for the third phrase: 'One a pen - ny, two a pen - ny, Hot cross buns.' The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes.

Variation 1:

Variation 1 consists of two staves of music. The melody is more rhythmic and complex than the theme, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. It is written in G major and common time.

Variation 2:

Variation 2 consists of two empty staves of music, intended for the student to write their own variation.



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756-1791

Mozart is often thought of as the most brilliant composer ever known. He was born in Austria in 1756. His father was one of the town's best music teachers, Leopold Mozart. By age four, Mozart began to study the keyboard and learned at an incredible rate. When Wolfgang was six, Leopold took his son and daughter on tour through the courts of Europe. When Wolfgang was seven, his first published works appeared. By age 13, Mozart had written *La Finta Semplice*, his first opera. In his 31 year musical career, Mozart wrote more than 600 works. Listen to some of Mozart's variations on "Ah vous dirais-je, Maman" K 265 on YouTube.