

All About Recorder



History



The recorder has been in existence for more than 700 years.



This 14th century recorder was found during an archeological dig in Tartu, Estonia near the border of Russia. It is made of bone.

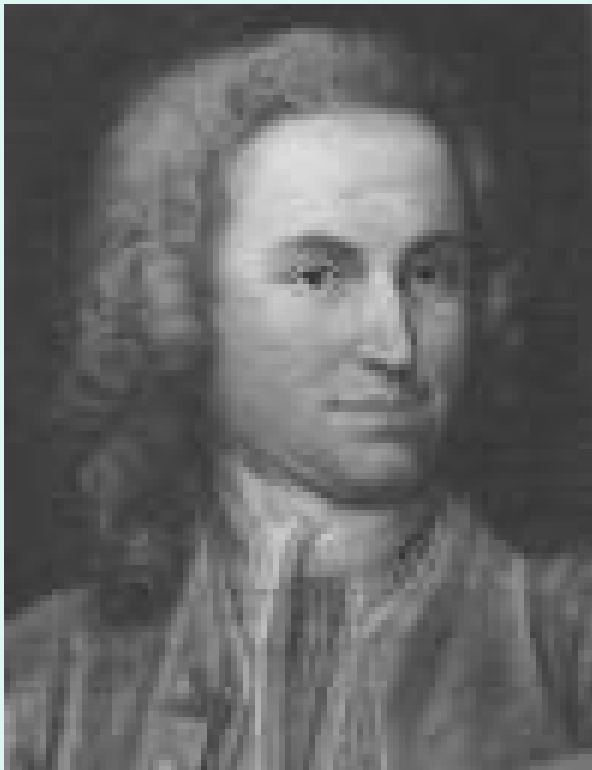
The first mention in writing of the recorder was in 1388, when a recorder was listed among the possessions of King Henry IV of England.



King Henry VIII of England had 76 recorders and was an avid amateur recorder player.



The recorder was most popular during the 16th and 17th centuries. Many famous composers of that time including Bach and Handel wrote music for the recorder.



Johann Sebastian Bach

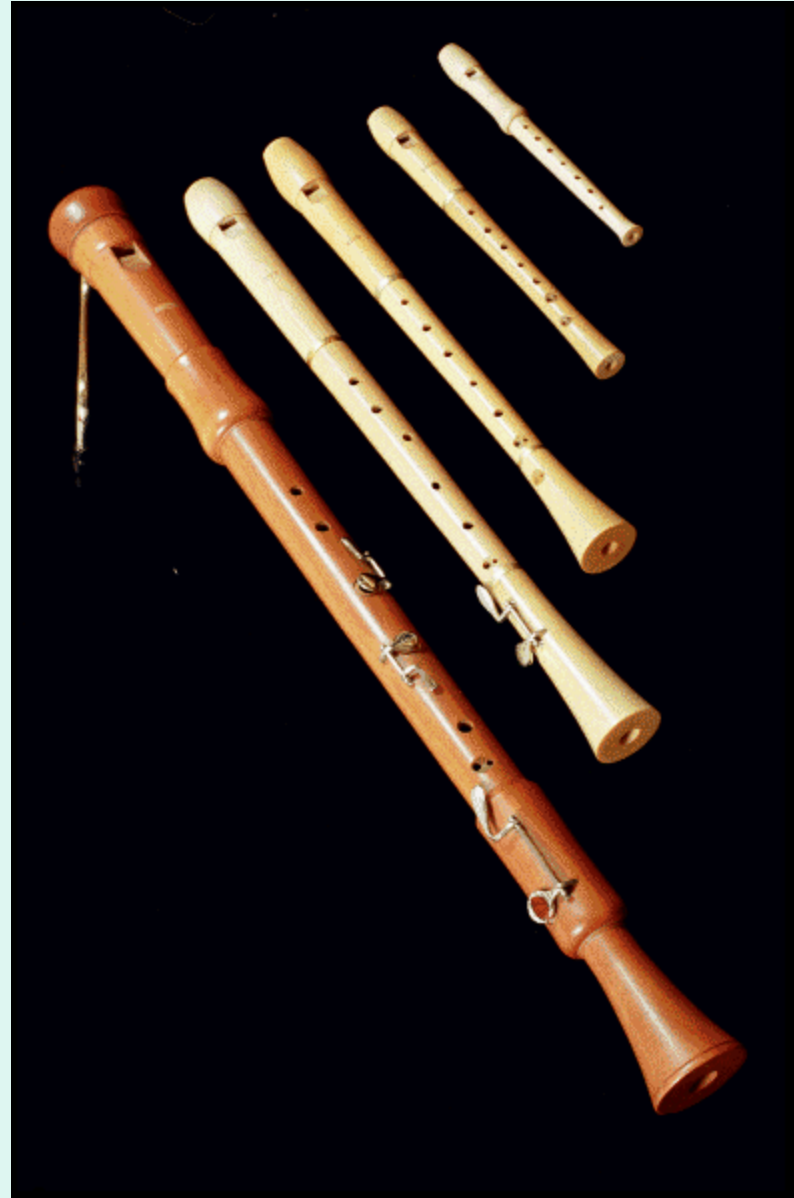
March 21, 1685 – July 28, 1750



George Frideric Handel

February 23, 1685 – April 14, 1759

Different Types of Recorder





The recorder is made in 5 different sizes. The smallest is a soprano recorder. Our recorder is the soprano recorder. There is also an alto, tenor and a bass recorder.

These 5 different-sized recorders can play **quintet** music, which is music in 5-parts.



A recorder choir is called a **consort**.



How It's Made and How It's Played



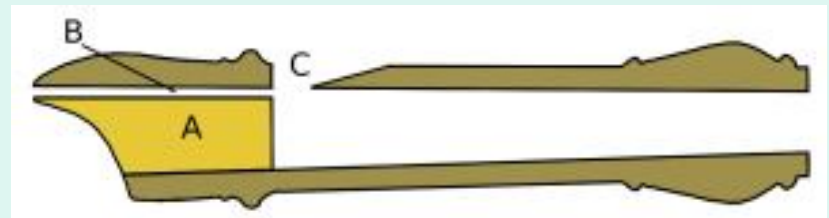


Here is a man carving a recorder from ivory in New England.



The recorder is held outwards from the player's mouth. The player's breath is held by a wooden "fipple" (A) and travels along the "windway." (B)

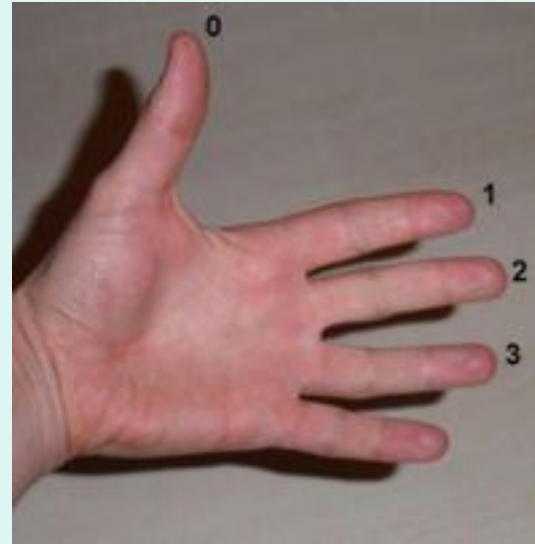
After exiting the windway, the breath is directed out the "labium" (C) which causes the air to vibrate. Remember, all sound is made from the vibration of air.



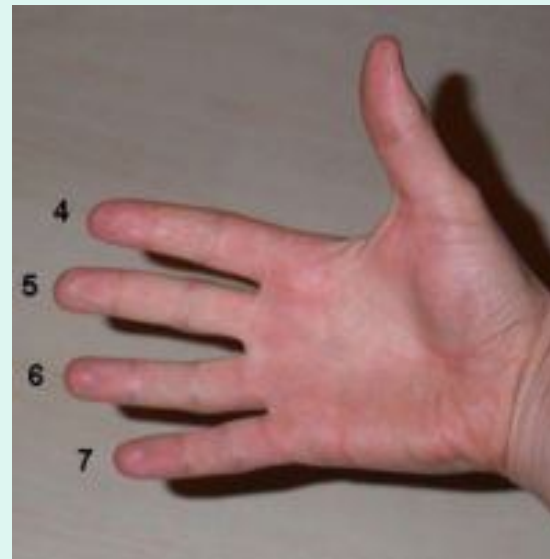
Cross section of the head of a recorder

All recorders have 8 holes.

The LEFT hand covers the thumb hole at the back of the recorder and the top 3 holes.



The RIGHT hand covers the 4 holes at the bottom of the recorder.



Sound is produced by blowing softly into the recorder mouthpiece. It is very easy to overblow 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 "articulating the note."





Tips for Care of Recorder

1. Keep all parts in your recorder bag.
2. Be careful not to bang recorder against anything. Plastic will chip.
3. Keep recorder clean. Bring a small cloth to use with the cleaning rod.
4. If recorder is hard to put together, use joint grease to loosen. **Use sparingly!**