

Introduction



Playing Technique

Things to remember when playing the recorder:

- Blow gently, but not too softly. Think of a burning candle. You want to blow enough to bend the flame, but now blow it out.
- Curl your lips around your teeth so you don't bite the recorder.
- Use your tongue to start and stop airflow- this is called "tonguing" the notes. It will help later when we play shorter rhythms.
- Left hand on top or closest to your chin. Right hand on the bottom.
- Recorder should be at about a 45 degree angle to your body~ not straight out or straight down.
- Sit tall with good posture.

Facts about the Soprano recorder

- It's a vertical flute, so that makes it a Woodwind
- Became very popular during the 15th-18th centuries- (The Renaissance & Baroque periods) in Europe, especially Italy, Germany, France and Austria.
- Lost popularity once the flute and clarinet gained more prominence in the 18th-19th centuries.
"However, around 150 years after the winter of its popularity, the recorder saw a 20th century revival at the hands of one particular individual. Through conducting research into old musical instruments, musicians once again brought the recorder into the spotlight. Beginning with the Dutch musician Brügger, a number of virtuosos emerged, making major contributions to the spread of the recorder." (www.yamaha.com/en/musical_instrument_guide/recorder/structure/)
- Quote from recorder for kids website: Recorder Facts for Kids. Kiddle Encyclopedia.
"Many people played the recorder in Europe in the 1500s and 1600s. King Henry VIII of England had 76 recorders. William Shakespeare talks about recorders in his play Hamlet and John Milton talks about them in his poem Paradise Lost. Recorders from that time are now called Renaissance recorders."