
The Sweet Pipes Recorder Series

ALTO

LEVEL 1

Playing Alto Recorder

A basic recorder method for
group or individual instruction

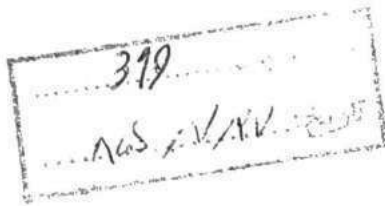
by
Gerald and Sonya Burakoff



Sweet Pipes

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NOTES INTRODUCED IN THE METHOD BOOK:



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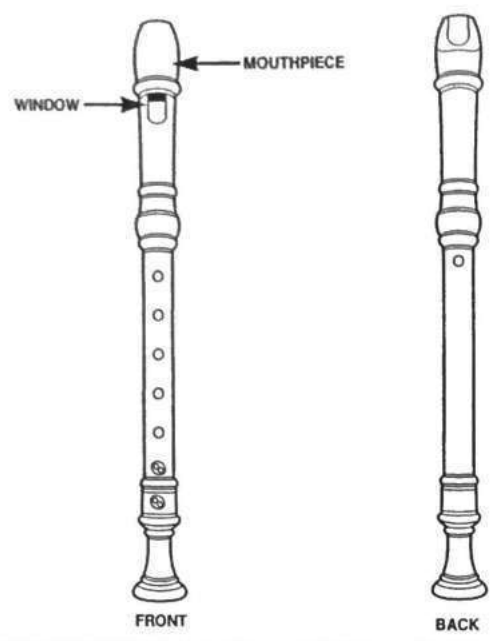
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Introduction

1. **Playing Alto Recorder** can be used successfully by beginning recorder players in both group and individual instruction situations.
2. Music has been chosen for its appeal to beginning players, suitability for acquiring basic recorder techniques, and musical value. Breath marks have been included throughout the method in order to give students a concept of the basic musical phrase. The addition or deletion of the marks will depend upon tempo and student capability. The musical selections cover a wide variety of styles and periods, have been chosen for their musical and educational value, are within the technical ability of beginning players, and have been carefully graded and selected by the authors.
3. Seventeen exercises have been included on pages 28 and 29 which can be used at the discretion of the teacher for the entire class, or for those students who want to build a more solid technical background. Appropriate times to introduce the exercises are listed throughout the book.
4. All new material is presented clearly in gray panels. New recorder pitches are introduced by attractive fingering diagrams. The diagrams indicate fingerings for English (Baroque) fingered instruments.
5. Ensemble playing is an important and enjoyable part of learning to play an instrument. It improves music reading, listening skills, and the ability to play parts independently. The Sweet Pipes publication, **Alto For Two** (SP2345) can be used in combination with this publication in order to help students expand their ensemble experience.

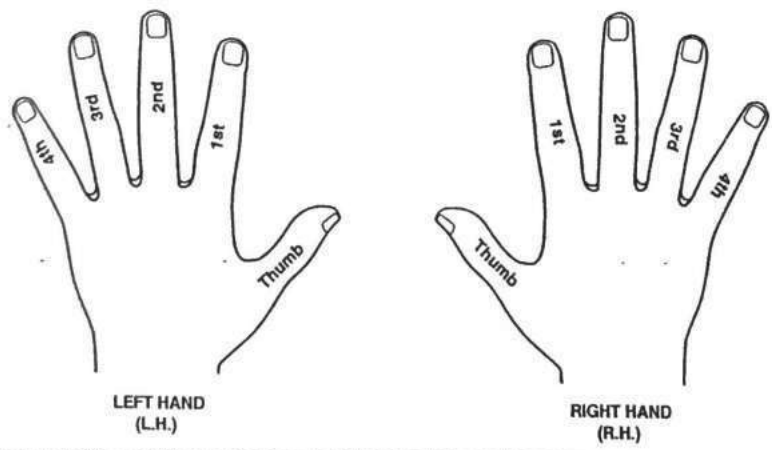
You and Your Recorder

Look at your recorder. You will see:

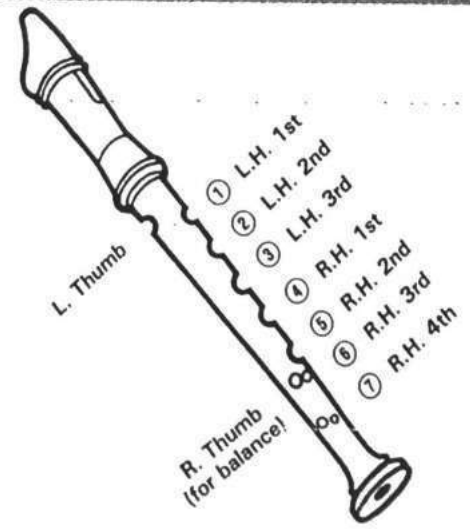


- A mouthpiece and a "window."
- Seven holes in front. The two bottom holes can be single or double ones.
- One hole at the back.

Your fingers are numbered like this for recorder playing:



Notice how the recorder holes are numbered. Your fingers will cover the holes like this:



- The left hand should always be at the top of the recorder.
- The first three holes and the thumb hole are covered with the left hand fingers.
- The right thumb is used to balance the recorder.
- Holes 4, 5, 6, and 7 are covered with the right hand fingers.

At The Beginning



PICTURE 1. Correct Hand Position

1. Pick up the recorder with your right hand at the bottom and hold it in front of you.
2. Cover the thumb hole with your left thumb as you continue to hold the recorder with your right hand. Remember: the left hand is always at the top, and the right hand is at the bottom when you play the recorder.
3. Cover the first hole at the top with the first finger of your left hand. Keep the left thumb on the thumb hole.
4. Open your right hand and balance the recorder on your right thumb, which should be directly behind the fifth hole.

5. Look at Picture 1. Your other fingers should now be held slightly above (but not touching) the holes which are not being covered.
6. Look at Picture 2. Place the mouthpiece of the recorder between your lips and in front of your teeth. Now close your mouth gently around the mouthpiece. Remember: your teeth and tongue should never touch the mouthpiece.
7. Now make a silent "daah" sound (called tonguing), and exhale gently into the recorder. The pitch you are playing is named E.
8. Play E several times and remember to tongue each pitch and play softly.



PICTURE 2. Correct Mouth Placement

A quarter note (♩) gets 1 beat.

9. Play the pitch E for each quarter note:



A quarter rest (♩) gets 1 beat of silence.

10. Play the pitch E for each quarter note, and keep silent for each quarter rest:



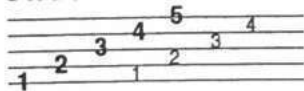
In 4/4 meter the top number (4) tells that there are 4 beats in each measure. The bottom number (4) tells that a quarter note (♩) gets 1 beat.

11. Play this pattern using the pitch E:



Getting Acquainted With Musical Symbols

STAFF



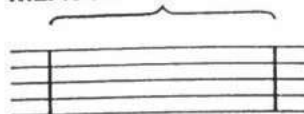
The Staff has 5 lines and 4 spaces.

BAR LINE



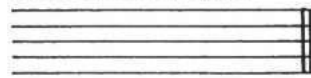
Bar lines are the vertical (up-and-down) lines on the staff.

MEASURE



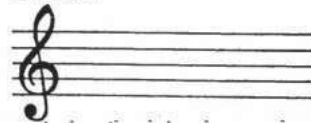
A measure is the space between two bar lines.

DOUBLE BAR LINE



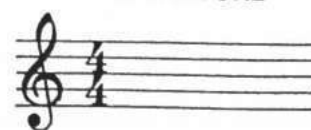
The double bar line means that you have come to the end of a section or piece of music.

G CLEF

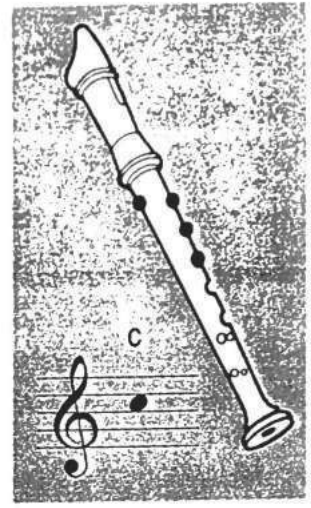
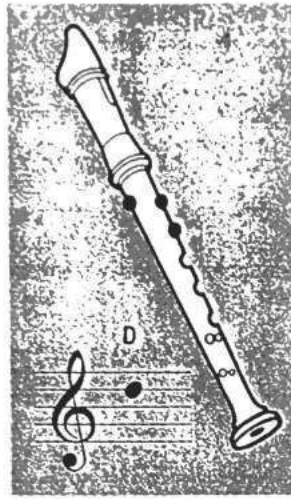
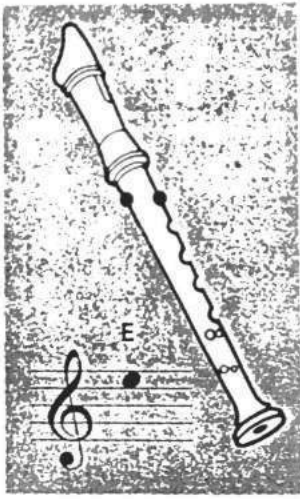


The G Clef is written at the beginning of the staff, and circles the second line. It shows that this line is named G.

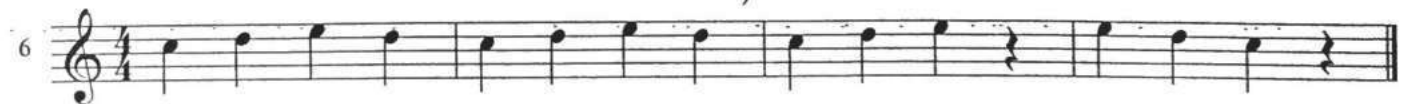
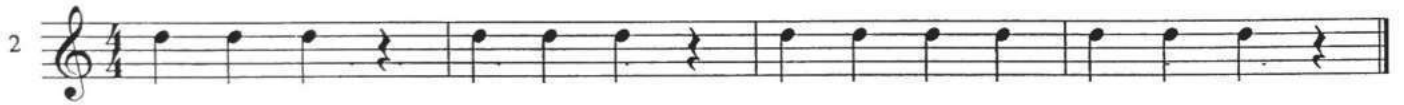
METER SIGNATURE



The meter (time) signature has two numbers. The top number tells how many beats are in each measure. The bottom number tells what kind of note gets one beat.



A breath mark (‘) tells you to take a breath (inhale) before going to the next note.



Play softly and tongue gently.

A half note (♩) lasts 2 times as long as a quarter note (♫) and gets 2 beats.
 A half rest (—) gets 2 beats of silence.

Suo Gan

Welsh

8

Bransle

French

9

Folk Tune

French

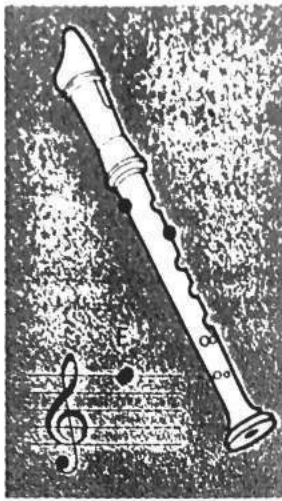
10

Pierrot

French

11

Teeth and tongue should never touch the mouthpiece.



In $\frac{2}{4}$ meter, the top number (2) tells that there are 2 beats in each measure. The bottom number (4) tells that a quarter note gets 1 beat.

Folk Song

Russian

12

Musical notation for a Russian Folk Song in 2/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written in quarter notes and half notes. The second and third staves continue the melody. There are commas above the notes in the second and third measures of each staff.

Dance



German

13

Musical notation for a German Dance in 2/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written in quarter notes and half notes. The second and third staves continue the melody. There are commas above the notes in the second and third measures of each staff.

TECHNIQUE TIME: Practice Exercises 1 and 2 on page 28.

When moving from E to F, make sure the first finger comes up exactly as the second finger comes down.

A dotted half note () lasts 3 times as long as a quarter note () and gets 3 beats. A dot after a note gets half the value of that note and makes it longer.

For example: $\frac{3}{4} = 3$

Bouffons

French

14



$\frac{3}{4}$ meter - the top number (3) tells that there are 3 beats in each measure. The bottom number (4) tells that a quarter note gets 1 beat.

Waltz Tune

French

15



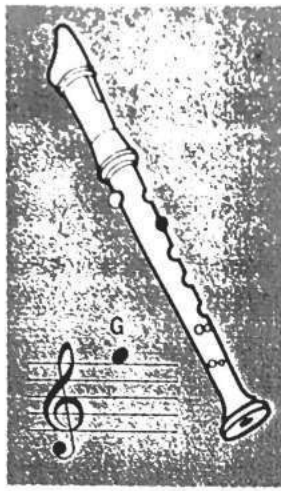
Carousel

English

16



Balance the recorder on the right thumb, which should be directly behind the fifth hole.



Spring Is Here Again

Babylonian

17

Winter, Goodbye

German

18

The Nightingale

French

19

A **duet** is a piece written for two performers. One performer plays or sings the melody part, and the other performer plays or sings the harmony part.

Lady, Come

20

English

Recorder 1

Recorder 2

A **whole note** (○) lasts 4 times as long as a quarter note (●) and gets 4 beats.
A **whole rest** (—) gets 4 beats of silence.

Silent, Silent

21

German

Recorder 1

Recorder 2

Rec. 1

Rec. 2

Rec. 1

Rec. 2

Fingers not being used should remain slightly above, but not touching the tone holes.

1 eighth note (♩) lasts half as long as 1 quarter note (♩).
 2 eighth notes (♪ or ♪) are equal to 1 quarter note (♩).
 1 eighth rest (♩) gets 1/2 beat of silence.

Folk Song

German

22

Skip Dance

Silesian

23

If the first measure of a piece does not have the total number of beats shown by the top number of the meter signature, and does not begin on the first beat, it is called an **incomplete measure**. The beats needed to make the measure complete are found in the last measure of the piece.

My Father's House

French

24



A repeat sign () means that you go back to the beginning and play the music again.

The Judge's Tune

Swedish

25



The repeat signs ( : ) mean that you must repeat the music that is written between the double dotted bar lines.

Gavotte

M. Praetorius
(1571-1621)

26



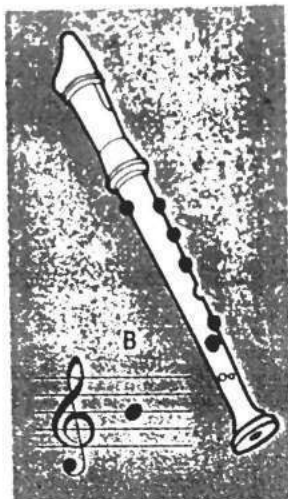
May Is Here

Swiss

27



Keep the shoulders down and relaxed.



The Donkey

Spanish

28


Musical notation for 'The Donkey' in 2/4 time, consisting of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with a fermata over the final note of the first staff. The second and third staves continue the melody with similar rhythmic patterns.


Old Hymn

L. Mason
(1792-1872)

29

Musical notation for 'Old Hymn' in 4/4 time, consisting of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with a fermata over the final note of the first staff. The second and third staves continue the melody with similar rhythmic patterns.

A staccato mark () means to play notes short and separated from each other.

A tenuto mark () means to play notes for their fullest value.

↳ portato

Old Dance

V. Haussman
(1600)

30

Mice And Crickets

Austrian

31

Folk Tune

English

32

Start staccato notes with a gentle "daah", and leave a short space between notes.

We Three Kings Of Orient Are

Christmas Carol

36

Musical notation for the first system of 'We Three Kings Of Orient Are'. It consists of three staves in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on the top staff, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a dotted quarter note B4. The second and third staves provide accompaniment with similar rhythmic patterns.

The Potter

Peruvian

37

Musical notation for the first system of 'The Potter'. It consists of three staves in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on the top staff, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a dotted quarter note B4. The second and third staves provide accompaniment.

A tie () is a curved line which connects notes of the same pitch. They are played as one note, and held for the total value of the connected notes.

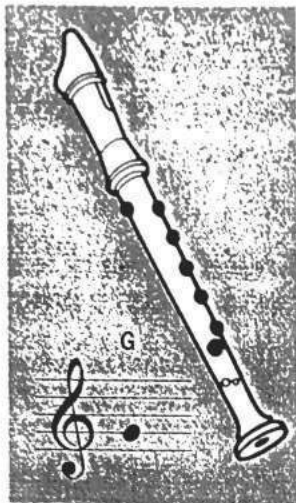
Folk Tune


Welsh

38

Musical notation for the first system of 'Folk Tune'. It consists of three staves in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on the top staff, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a dotted quarter note B4. The second and third staves provide accompaniment.

Inhale without raising the shoulders, then exhale gently into the recorder and think of making a silent "daah" sound.



A **fermata** () placed above a note means that the note is held a little longer than its usual count.

Canon

T. Tallis
(1505-1585)

39

Da Capo (D. C.) - from the beginning
al Fine - to the end
D.C. al Fine - go back to the beginning of the piece and play to the measure marked Fine.

Bransle De Champagne

C. Gervaise
(16th century)

40

A dot after a note gets 1/2 the value of that note. 1 dotted quarter note and 1 eighth note together (♩.) get 2 beats.

Andante (from the Piano Sonata, K.331)

W.A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

41

The 1st and 2nd ending signs (1. and 2.) mean that you must play from the beginning to the repeat sign (||) in the 1st ending. Then go back to the beginning or to this sign (||) and play the section again. This time you must skip the 1st ending and go directly to the 2nd ending.

The Gift To Be Simple

American (Shaker)

42

Relax the lips, face, jaw, and throat.

Common Time (C) is the same as 4/4 meter. There are 4 beats in each measure, and a quarter note (♩) gets 1 beat.

Hymn To Joy (from the Ninth Symphony)

L. van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

43

Recorder 1

Recorder 2



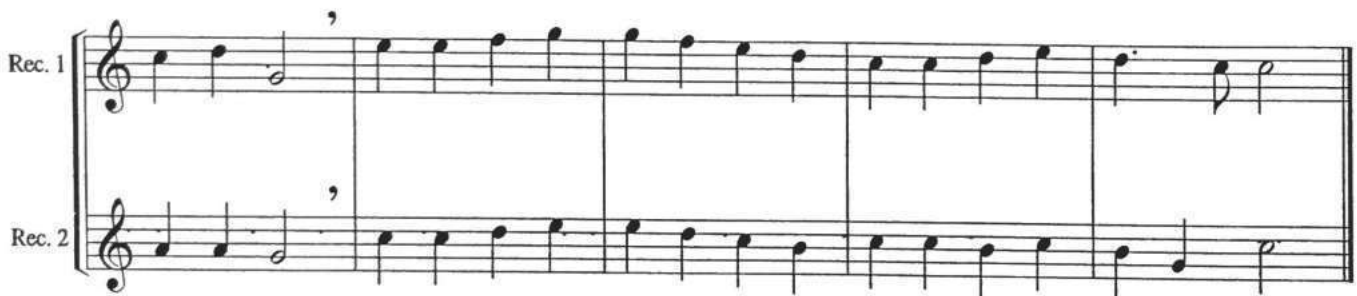
Rec. 1

2



Rec. 1

Rec. 2



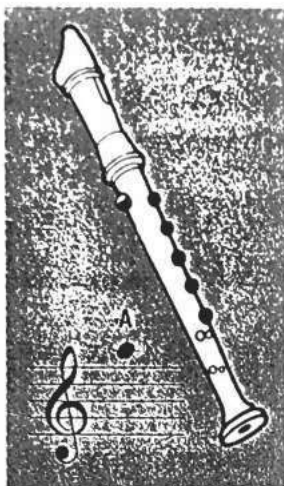
Aura Lee

American

44



Arms and elbows should be slightly raised, relaxed, and away from the body.



Picardy

French

45

Musical notation for 'Picardy' in 4/4 time, consisting of three staves of music.

The Ash Grove

Welsh

46

Musical notation for 'The Ash Grove' in 3/4 time, consisting of four staves of music. The first staff is marked with a fermata. The second staff ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine'. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'D.C. al Fine'.



A sharp (#) placed before a note raises the pitch of that note one half-step. The note stays "sharped" through the measure.

Allemande

J. Schein
(1586-1636)

50

A sharp (#) placed on the fifth line at the beginning of each staff is called the **key signature**. It means that every F must be played as F#.

Chester

Key of G Major

American

51



Tempo marks indicate how fast or slow the music should be played

'Liza Jane

American

Allegro (fast)

52

Musical notation for the piece 'Liza Jane'. It consists of three staves of music in treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a common time signature 'C'. The music features eighth and quarter notes with various rests and accents.

Johnny Has Gone For A Soldier

American

Moderato (moderately)

53

Musical notation for the piece 'Johnny Has Gone For A Soldier'. It consists of four staves of music in treble clef, 2/4 time signature. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The music features quarter and eighth notes with various rests and accents.



A flat (b) placed before a note lowers the pitch of that note one-half step. The note says, "flatted" through the measure.

Minuet

L. Mozart
(1719-1787)

Moderato

54

 Musical score for Minuet by L. Mozart, measures 54-58. It consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music features eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff has a double bar line and the word "Fine" above it. The third staff ends with "D.C. al Fine".

A flat (b) placed on the third line at the beginning of each staff indicates the key signature. Play every B as B-flat.

Key of F Major

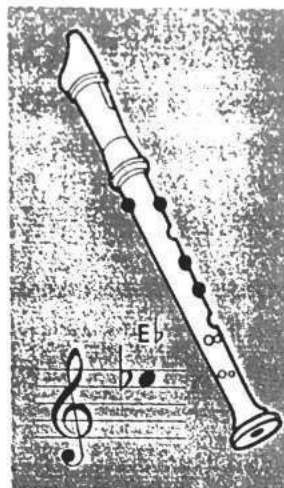
Blow The Man Down

Sea Chantey

Allegro

55

 Musical score for Blow The Man Down, measures 55-59. It consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music features eighth and sixteenth notes.



Flats placed on the third line and in the fourth space at the beginning of each staff indicate the key signature. Play every B and E as B \flat and E \flat .

Theme

(from the First Symphony)

Key of B \flat Major

J. Brahms
(1833-1897)

Allegro moderato (moderately fast)

58

 Four staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of B-flat major (two flats), and common time. The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and a half note with a fermata. The first measure starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a common time signature.

A natural (\natural) placed before a note cancels a flat (\flat) or a sharp (\sharp) through the measure.

Scarborough Fair

Moderato

English

59

 Three staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of B-flat major (two flats), and 3/4 time. The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and a half note with a fermata. The first measure starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 3/4 time signature.

Practice each exercise slowly at first, and then gradually increase the tempo.

Technique Time

1. A single staff with a treble clef and 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

2. A single staff with a treble clef and 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

3. A single staff with a treble clef and 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

4. A single staff with a treble clef and 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

5. A single staff with a treble clef and 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The notes from G4 to C5 are beamed together as eighth notes.

6. A single staff with a treble clef and 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

7. A single staff with a treble clef and 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

8. A single staff with a treble clef and 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

9. A single staff with a treble clef and 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

10. A single staff with a treble clef and 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

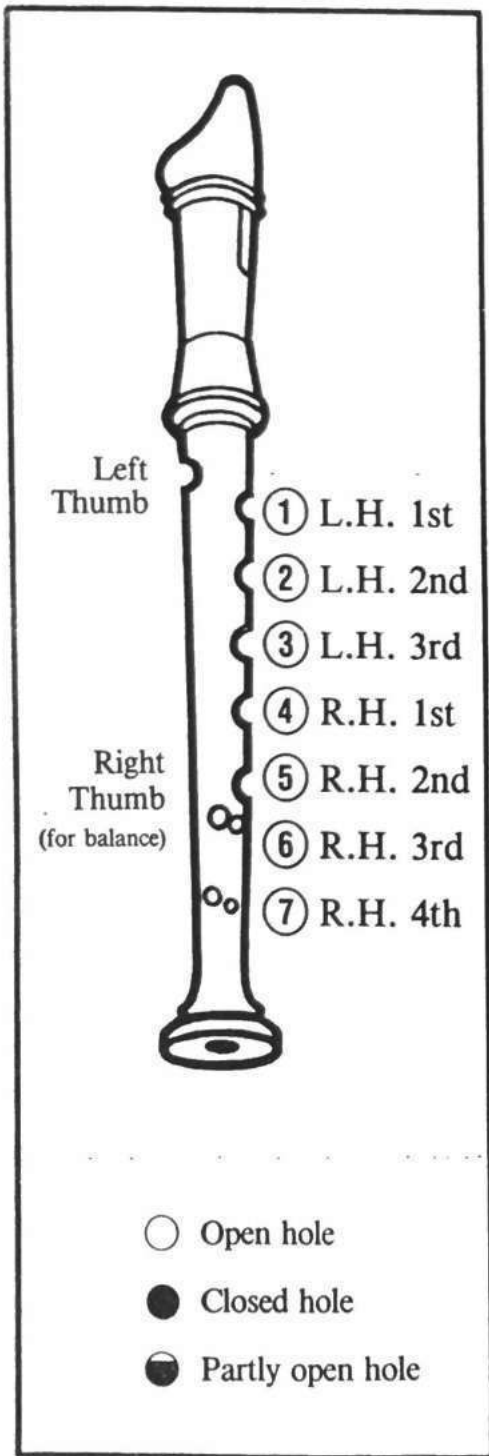
Tongue and fingers should move exactly at the same time.

Musical score for recorder, measures 10-17. The score is written in treble clef. Measures 10-11 are in common time (C) and G major. Measures 12-13 are in common time (C) and G major. Measures 14-15 are in common time (C) and F major. Measures 16-17 are in common time (C) and F major. The score consists of 10 staves of music. Measures 10-11 are a simple melody. Measures 12-13 are a simple melody. Measures 14-15 are a more complex melody with eighth notes. Measures 16-17 are a simple melody.

Cover recorder holes gently. Too much finger pressure causes "choppy" playing.

Fingering Chart For So

English



	C	*C# - Db	D	*D# - Eb	E
SOPRANO					
ALTO					
	D	D# - Eb	E	F	F# - Gb
SOPRANO					
ALTO					
	G	G# - Ab	A	A# - Bb	B

Prano & Alto Recorder

(Baroque) Fingering

F	F#-Gb	G	G#-Ab	A	A#-Bb	B	C	C#-Db

A#-Bb	B	C	C#-Db	D	D#-Eb	E	F	F#-Gb
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**This fingering is for double hole recorders. Single hole recorders must be covered like this*

G	G#-Ab	A	A#-Bb	B	C	C#-Db	D	D#-Eb

C	C#-Db	D	D#-Eb	E	F	F#-Gb	G	G#-Ab
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Gift To Be Simple, The	19	Theme.....	19
Hey, Ho, Nobody Home!.....	22	Waltz Tune.....	9
Hymn To Joy	20	We Gather Together.....	26
Il Est Né.....	22	We Three Kings Of Orient Are	17
Johnny Has Gone For A Soldier	24	When The Train Comes Along	16
Joseph Lieber, Joseph Mein	22	Winter, Goodbye	10



Sweet Pipes

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