

FLUTE

Originally made of wood, the flute is now made from silver or gold and is about 2 feet in length. It looks like a narrow tube with a row of holes covered by keys along one side. The player blows air across the small hole in the mouthpiece to produce a sound. This instrument has a high, bright sound. The instrument is found in cultures throughout the world. It is one of the oldest and most popular instruments in the history of music. Between 1830 and 1850, Theobald Boehm developed the modern flute and a system of fingering for producing the notes still known today as the Boehm system.



Flute Links

<http://www.gemeinhardt.com/>

<http://www.flute.org/>

<http://www.flute.com/>

<http://www.nfaonline.org/>

<http://www.flutenet.com/>

How the sound is made

Sound on a woodwind instrument comes from a vibrating column of air inside the instrument. The player makes this column of air vibrate in one of three ways: as air is blown across the top of an instrument (like the flute), across a single reed (like the clarinet), or across two reeds (like the oboe). A single reed is clamped to a mouthpiece at the top of the instrument and vibrates against the mouthpiece when air is blown between the reed and the mouthpiece. Two reeds tied together are commonly known as a double reed. This double reed fits into a tube at the top of the instrument and vibrates when air is forced between the two reeds.

How the pitch is changed

Woodwind pitch depends on the volume of air that is vibrating. A larger volume vibrates more slowly, for lower pitch; a smaller volume vibrates more quickly, for a higher pitch. For most woodwinds, the player changes pitch by opening and closing holes along the instrument's length. Closing more holes makes the instrument longer, making the notes lower.