

A decorative border consisting of a musical staff with a treble clef on the left and a bass clef on the right. The staff is filled with a continuous sequence of eighth notes, creating a rhythmic pattern around the entire page.

The Basics of Recorder Playing

Caring for Your Recorder

- Clean your recorder weekly with hot, soapy water in the sink.
- In between major cleaning, you can pull a piece of cloth through the recorder to take out moisture. (A pipe cleaner or chopstick can help you pull the piece of cloth through the instrument.)
- Do not put tissue into your recorder. It will break apart inside the instrument!
- Do not share your recorder with others, unless you have washed it with hot, soapy water. There are a lot of germs in your mouth! You will get sick.

Holding Your Recorder

- Your left hand goes on top! Do not practice with your right hand on top. You will develop bad habits if you practice incorrectly.
- Cover the holes with the fleshy, flat part of your finger (not your finger tips). You want to seal the holes tightly.
- Make sure that extra fingers (those that aren't being used to cover holes) are not partially covering holes on the recorder.

Blowing Into Your Recorder

- Use warm, slow air.
- Pretend you are trying to blow out a candle or you are trying to fog up a window.
- Cool, fast air causes squeaks!

Why am I squeaking?

You will probably have a few squeaks as you start playing the recorder. You will want to fix those squeaks as soon as you can. The two main reasons for squeaking are:

- Blowing too hard
- Not covering the holes completely with your fingers

Try blowing less hard and check that your fingers are completely covering the holes that you want covered. (You may want to have someone else watch your fingers while you play to see if your fingers stay covering the correct holes. This isn't always easy to tell by yourself.)