

## Course Content - Woodwinds

### Introduction and Fun Fact

- Woodwinds are not only made from wood. They can be made from metal, plastic, or other materials.
- Most of the woodwinds that we see and hear today were created in Europe between the 1600's and the 1900's.
- There are two types of woodwind instruments: flutes and reed instruments.
- A reed is a strip of material that vibrates to produce a sound. Reeds are mostly made from *Arundo donax* (cane).
- There are two types of reed instruments: single and double reed.
- Double reed instruments use two small pieces of cane bound together.
- Woodwinds make sound by flicking air back and forth above and below the labium.
- Using your fingers or pads to open and close holes in the instrument plays different notes.
- Nose flutes are a type of instrument that you play with your nose!

### Flutes

- In 2008, scientists discovered flutes in a cave in southern Germany that were made from bird bones and between 40,000 and 50,000 years old.
- Pan flutes come from places like Greece and Peru. Bamboo flutes are often from India.
- Some flutes are played by blowing air through the top and some flutes are played by blowing air across the side.
- Some flutes like the recorder and whistle have a little duct that the player blows across – called a fipple.
- Flutes like the western concert flute or the piccolo are “non-fipple” flutes. For non-fipple flutes, the player blows air across a hole at one end of the instrument.
- Most of the flutes we see and hear today are side blown.
- The piccolo plays some of the highest notes in the flute family.

### Music in Life Lesson:

The Music in Life lesson is a moment to engage in active listening. The Music in Life lesson song for this course is “Ghostbuster’s Theme” by Coen Kaldeway/Ray Parker Jr. Students are invited to think about how the music makes them feel, think and move. Music is an individual experience; active listening encourages students to choose their own musical path.

### Single Reed Woodwinds and Fun Fact

- The clarinet is a single reed woodwind instrument that was invented in the 1600's.
- The original clarinets were developed and designed for orchestras and church groups.
- Clarinets are heard in classical and church music. They are also popular in other styles in Jazz music like swing and Dixieland.
- Saxophones are another popular group of single reed woodwind instrument.
- The saxophone was invented by the Belgian instrument maker Adolphe Sax in 1840.
- You can hear saxophones in marching bands, jazz, R&B, soul, and all kinds of music.
- Recorders are fun woodwind instrument that are taught in many schools.

### Double Reed Instruments

- The bassoon is a double reed woodwind instrument.
- Historians agree that the first bassoon that looks and sounds like a modern bassoon was developed in the 1600's.
- The bassoon is a very popular instrument in orchestras, concert bands and chamber groups because it can play a wide range of notes.
- The oboe is another popular double reed woodwind instrument.
- The oboe comes from France in the 1600's.
- The oboe has a special role in the orchestra – all the other instruments tune to its note.