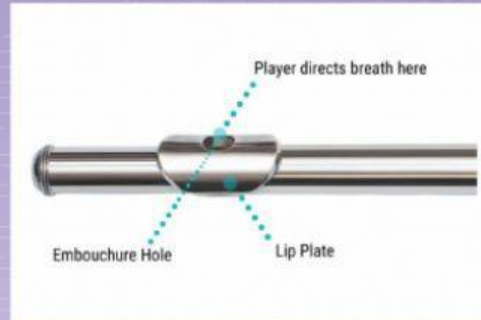


The WOODWIND FAMILY 1

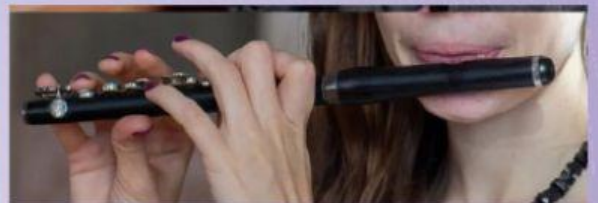


Flute and Piccolo

- On the piccolo and the flute the sound is produced by blowing across a **lip plate** fixed to an elliptical hole at the top of the instrument.



- They developed from the recorder in the fifteenth century and are often referred to as the **transverse flute**, as they are played by holding the body of the instrument to the side of the player.



- Flutes and piccolos are usually made of silver or nickel these days. Originally they were made of wood, and sometimes they still are today.



What is the difference in pitch between the piccolo and flute?

Why do you think this is?

Have a listen to a wooden flute being played in a concerto by Mozart

- What is a concerto?
- Name the instruments you see/ hear playing in this concerto

Now watch the piccolo being played as a solo with an orchestra

Oboe/ Cor anglais



The oboe is a conical tube. The oboe was not invented until the 1600s but it is believed to have been descended from the shawm - an instrument that dates back to 2800 BC

The oboe does not have a mouthpiece like the clarinet. The sound is produced by blowing through a DOUBLE REED - two strips of cane bound tightly together.

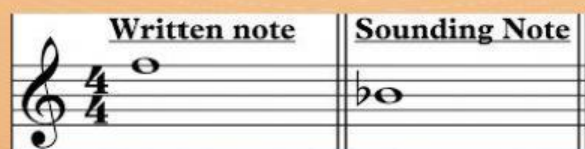
To play the oboe, the oboist places the double reed between their lips and they blow. The reeds vibrate and open and close quickly which send energy into the air column. The oboist plays the keys and holes to produce different pitches.



The cor anglais, is a double reed instrument very similar to an oboe, but as it is longer than an oboe it plays lower notes.

- What does 'cor anglais' mean?

The cor anglais is a transposing instrument pitched in F. This means that the music sounds a fifth lower than written. This has the advantage that the cor anglais player uses fingering as if he were playing an oboe, but it will sound a fifth lower.



Watch the oboe being played in the well known piece 'Gabriel's Oboe'

Watch the cor anglais being played in this famous piece - 'Largo' from Dvorak's New World Symphony

- What is a symphony?
- What does 'Largo' mean?