

# The Recorder



From left to right – A Bass Recorder; A Tenor Recorder; An Alto Recorder and a Soprano Recorder. Akin to the SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass) voices in a choir or chorus. B,A,T & S in this photo.

## **An Introduction to the Recorder**

**The recorder is an ancient flute, originally made of wood and recently also made of plastic. Plastic recorders are inexpensive compared to Baroque, Wooden and hand-crafted options. The recorder is an inexpensive (Rs. 300/- at the lower end) and be in the 6 figures for a good-wood one.**

**The recorder is a great fun way to get into music, if you did not learn a musical instrument as a child. The recorder can be a toy, but a serious musical instrument and adults of any age can start afresh..**

**A recorder can be used to give a child a head start in music. Children can start learning with a recorder before they can handle, a violin, piano, flute or saxophone. The skills they learn in playing the recorder can easily transfer to other instruments.**

**The recorder is easy to play because you just blow into it from the end and the sounds produced will be true even with your first blow. However developing a good tone quality and Recorder embouchure will take a year plus.**

**Children as young as 5 can be taught. We recommend an age of between 7 and 11. Left brain, Right brain, cross mid-line functioning, reading music, applying**

concepts from paper to audio, hand-eye co-ordination, VAK (Visual, Auditory & Kinesthetic) re-wiring and being one of the 8 Gardner intelligences are among the enormous developmental benefits.

What they play and play together is as important. A preferred being rooted in the genre of western classical. Associating it with movement and dance, synchronization, voice, listening-skills, rhythm & percussion, timing, pitch, scales, harmony, intervals etc.

Of course they can continue this as a serious instrument through a lifetime. You can do ABRSM, Trinity, LCM play Bach, Concertos, do exams and much more. Recorders are great for performing real chamber music, not just Nursery Rhymes, Folk Tunes or Popular Songs.

While children smaller fingers may have to stay with the smaller Soprano recorder for some time, adults have a choice of Recorders to get better at.

Playing a group to produce music is one of the most practical and important forms of Values and Social Development for any Group of People - even if they are your worst enemies, or not just your type.

With the Music International RECORDER PROGRAM we have in mind is to help individuals start learning to

**play with music notation on any one recorder. The soprano.**

**Another key point to note in BUYING a recorder is whether it is Baroque or German. A B or G will be embossed or marked on the Recorder itself. By default please buy only B or Baroque recorders. The G or German fingering is easier and if you are stuck with one you could play and use it. It is sometimes suggested for very young children and beginners but most get past this minor difference in finger adjustment quickly.**

**Then, own and learn to play on all 4 types of recorders. The C type and the F type. The S and T are in C; while the A and B are in F. Both are identical in fingering but will look different in size and sounds higher or lower. The B recorder uses the bass clef while all the others are in the treble clef.**

**We will then combine all Recorder Players to form groups. A Recorder Orchestra, Recorder Ensemble, Recorder Quartets, Trios and Duets are all possibilities. There could be just 4, 8 or even 60 playing at the same time.**

**The quality of performance recorders must be consistent with each other and we will reserve the right to allow a particular musician-player-student AND-OR recorder to be used in any of our Programmes.**



**With ONE hour tuition a week; a minimum of between 20 and 90 minutes of practice EACH DAY is requested. Within 3 months and 12 months and 3 years and 5 years ... expertise and professional-level competence can be achieved by almost anyone.**

Put together by ...

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