

Playing the Recorder

The **recorder** is one of the most popular musical instruments. It is quite easy to learn, which makes it the ideal entry-level instrument for children.

The left hand is for the three upper finger holes and the thumb hole on the back; the right hand plays the four lower holes.

Blow gently into the mouthpiece, as if you were blowing bubbles. Blow too hard and you will produce a sharp, unpleasant sound. Blow too softly, the sound will be breathy.

With just a little practice, you will start making beautiful musical sounds.



Many of these stamps show children playing the recorder. Portugal used it in 1979 as part of a set for life-long learning. Other countries (Germany, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Slovakia) used it on semi-postal stamps to aid children's charities.

"The Singing Boy" by Frans Hals holds a recorder in his right hand.



Of course, you want to make sure that the recorder actually meets your mouth.

Even the beginner needs to learn that you would not want to hold the recorder at the bottom, as shown in this Europa 1985 stamp from Finland.

