

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

# THE WOODWIND FAMILY

During the next Family Musical Mornings concert, the woodwind family of instruments will be featured in the music of the planets.

The **WOODWIND** family includes instruments that are or were made out of wood that you blow into. The four main instruments of the **WOODWIND** family are:



**Flute**

**Clarinet**



**Oboe**



**Bassoon**



There are four families of musical instruments in the orchestra – can you name them all? Look below for the answer.

Other instruments in the woodwind family are related in to the list above. These instruments include:

- Piccolo**
- English Horn**
- Saxophone**
- Bass Clarinet**
- Contrabassoon**

The 4 families of instruments in the orchestra are:

- 1) The String Family
- 2) The Woodwind Family
- 3) The Brass Family
- 4) The Percussion Family

Click anywhere inside this box to go to a website that has great information on all the individual instruments, including those in the **WOODWIND** family.

# But, how do **WOODWIND** instruments work?

## The Tube

**WOODWIND** instruments are all made of a hollow tube with holes in it. Above the holes of all the **WOODWIND** instruments (other than the fife and recorder) are round keys that are pushed down by the player's fingers. The more holes that are covered, the longer the air travels down the tube and the lower the sound of the note.



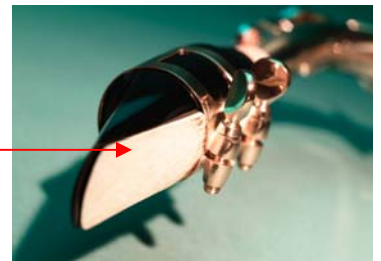
## The Reed or Mouthpiece

The most important part of the **WOODWIND** instrument is the reed or mouthpiece. That is where the player blows into the instrument.

On **flutes**, **piccolos** and **fifes** there is a mouthpiece that is blown across. By blowing across the opening of the mouthpiece the player creates a vibration in the air inside the mouthpiece area and down the body (the tube) which causes a note to play. If you purse your lips slightly and blow gently, that's what a flute player does to produce a sound.



On **clarinets** and **saxophones** there is a mouthpiece, but you put it in your mouth to blow. It has on single **reed** attached to the mouthpiece that vibrates when blown into. The reed is made from dried from a small piece of **cane**.



On **oboes** and **bassoons**, the mouthpiece is made up of only two reeds tied together. This double reed is then put at the top of the tube. When blown on, the two reeds vibrate together, causing the resulting sound to travel down the tube.



Click here to go learn how to whistle using a blade of grass!

Click here to learn how to blow across the top of a bottle to make a sound!

Do not forget to write a question before the concert in the Musical Carnival! During the concert, players from the Pacific Symphony will answer your questions!