

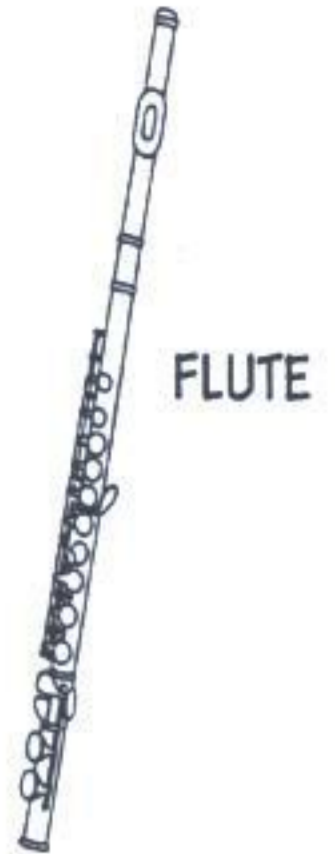
WOODWINDS

This family's name was chosen because most of the instruments are made of **wood**, and it takes **wind** to play them. Tone is produced by air blown directly into a hollow tube, or by reeds which vibrate.

The **FLUTE** is one of the oldest instruments and used to be made of wood. Modern flutes are made of silver, gold, or platinum. Because the flute has no reed, sound is produced by blowing across a small hole near one end.

The **PICCOLO** is a smaller version of the flute and therefore sounds higher than other woodwinds.

The **CLARINET** is made of wood or plastic and has many silver keys. It has a mouthpiece and a single reed made of a thin slice of wood. A metal clamp, or ligature, holds the reed in place. Blowing into the mouthpiece makes the reed vibrate, which produces the sound we hear.



The **OBOE** looks similar to the clarinet, but has no mouthpiece. Instead, it uses a double reed, which is two pieces of wood or cane tied together. Because all the instruments tune to the oboe when it sounds the "A" note, it has one of the most important roles in the orchestra.



An **ENGLISH HORN** is a very large oboe with a deeper sound.

The **BASSOON** is the largest woodwind and therefore can make very low pitches. It also has a double reed, but it is attached to the middle of the instrument by a small curved pipe. Its unique sound can be beautiful or humorous.

