Recorder Class

Friday, September 16, 2011

**Recorder care**

The recorder comes apart into three pieces because it is easier to clean and tune this way. When you are finished playing, you will notice the inside has condensation build up from your breath and this needs to be swabbed out in order to avoid mildew and sticky build-up. Take the corner of a very thin piece of cloth, thread it through the “eye” of the enclosed cleaning rod, pull the cloth tight and hold it to the rod, then gently push the cloth-covered-rod through each piece of the recorder. Do this every time after you are done playing.

**How to hold the recorder**

Hold the recorder with your left hand on top (use thumb to cover back hole and “1” “2” and “3” to cover top three holes in front—left pinky is not used) and your right hand on the bottom. Make sure your right hand ring finger (“3”) and pinky (“4”) are flattened enough to cover both holes at one time.

**How to sit**

Sit tall on the front half of your chair.

**How to read the fingering chart**

The fingering chart shows all of the holes on the recorder (including the back hole which is placed next to the top hole). When the hole is black it means to cover it, when the hole is clear it means to lift up your finger and uncover it. (When you cover a hole it must be completely sealed in order for the note to sound. Do not let any air escape around the sides of the hole.)

**Where to print your lesson music**

We will use two sets of music, one for class which I will carry with me and one for home practice which you can print from my school web site and keep at home. This way we always have music in class and at home. To print your personal copies of the music, go to [www.katherinesschool.com](http://www.katherinesschool.com). Pass your mouse over “current students” and you will see a drop down menu with “recorder class” near the bottom. Go to that page and print off all of the music for class. They are labeled as Lesson 1, Lesson 2, etc. Also, print the fingering chart.

**Practicing the Recorder**

Practice the recorder every day for 20 minutes. Go over the music we played in class and the new assignment and practice your rhythm sheet. (Then clean your recorder before you put it away.)

**Assignment for next time**

* Get a cleaning cloth for your recorder
* Practice songs 1, 2, 3 and 4 from lesson one in two ways:
  + Rhythm counting
  + Playing