# Trevor Wye

A Beginner's Book for the Flute

Part One





**NOVELLO** 

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#### **PREFACE**

Any new book appearing on the market usually boasts of new ideas and new format. This book is no different in this respect though it does incorporate all the well-tried recipes of the past.

Technically, the flute is the easiest of the woodwind instruments and one which lends itself most readily to being learnt chromatically. It is easier for a beginner to play in different keys, provided that the learning of each new note is given equal emphasis.

The general outline of this book is, therefore, to encourage:

- (a) enjoyment of flute playing and music making in the broadest sense.
- (b) familiarity with the lesser-known keys which, in turn, results in easier access to orchestras and ensembles.
- (c) the formation of a firm low register, the foundation to a good tone throughout the compass of the flute.
- (d) solo and ensemble playing.

The 72 numbered pieces (1-42 are in PART I, the rest in PART II) in this book can mostly be played either:

- 1) as a solo
- 2) as a duet
- 3) as a solo with piano
- 4) as a duet with piano
- 5) as a solo or duet with guitar accompaniment.

The book of piano accompaniments, in which chord symbols are given, are up to Grade VI (Associated Board) in standard (though many are easier), and is available separately.

The book is intended for both individual and group tuition. It can be used without a teacher if circumstances make this necessary though a pupil is strongly advised to consult a good teacher.

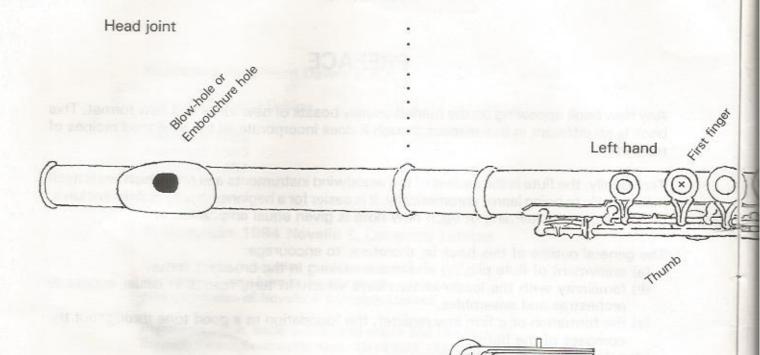
Many exercises and tunes are by the author.

Piano accompaniments by Robert Scott with nine original pieces specially composed by Alan Ridout.

Finally, I acknowledge with grateful thanks, the players and teachers who have advised me on the preparation of this book:

Lucy Cartledge, Catharine Hill, Malcolm Pollack, Rosemary Rathbone, Alastair Roberts, Lenore Smith, Robin Soldan, Hilary Taggart, Stephanie Tromans, Lindsay Winfield-Chislett and Janet Way.

TREVOR WYE



Thumb

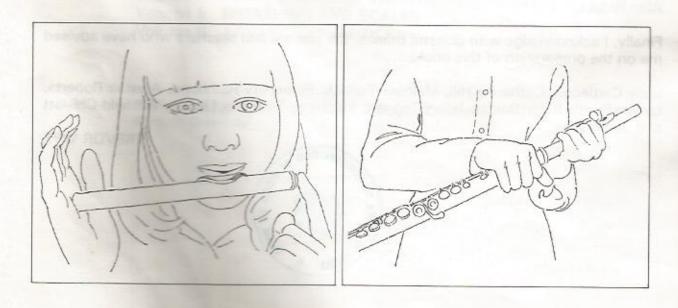
#### Blowing the headjoint

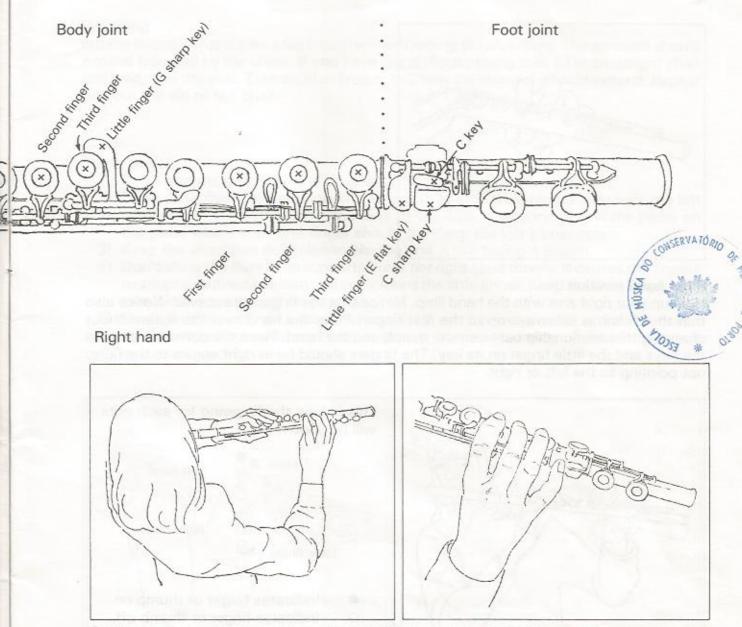
Take the headjoint and place the palm of the right hand across the open end of the tube to make it airtight. Place the lip plate against the lower lip so that less than half of the blowhole is covered. The headjoint will be parallel with the lips. Bring the lips together and blow across the hole.

When a sound has been made, take the right hand away and try again. Be patient if you do not get an immediate result.

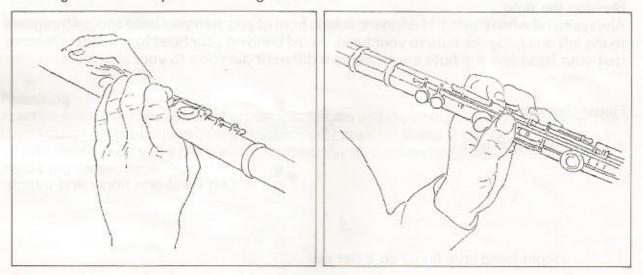
Try not to lose too much air.

Try to keep the sound steady. Repeat the above starting the note with the tongue as if making the syllable *te*. Do not end the note with your tongue. When successful: assemble the flute holding it as in the above diagram. See that the blow-hole is in line with the key for the first finger of the left hand. Note the footjoint position.

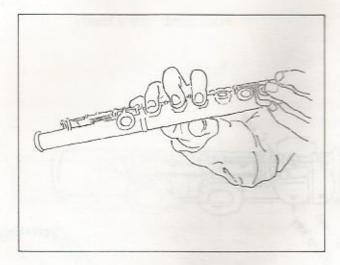




Study the pictures: notice the angle of the flute in relation to the body. Place the right and left hands on the flute as in the drawings above. Place your fingers on the flute as in the drawings above. Keep the little finger curved.



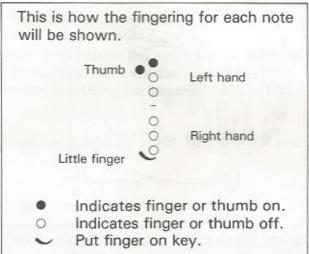
The left hand first finger curves under the flute to support it whilst the fingers curve over the keys. Notice the left hand thumb. Keep the thumb on the right lever.



Right hand position

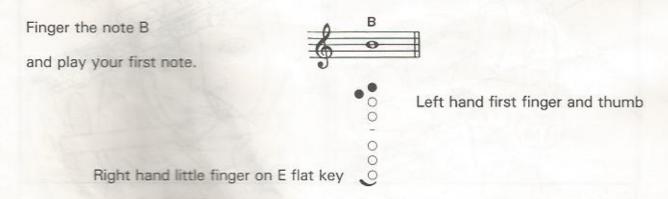
Hold up your right arm with the hand limp. Notice that the fingers are curved. Notice also that the thumb is sideways-on to the first finger. Place the hand over the flute without changing this relationship between the thumb and the hand. Place the curved fingers on the keys and the little finger on its key. The fingers should be at right angles to the flute: not pointing to the left or right.





Blowing the flute

Always stand when playing. Holding the flute in front of you, turn your head about 45 degrees to the left and bring the flute to your head. Avoid bringing your head to the flute. Observe that your head and the flute are facing in a different direction to your shoulders.



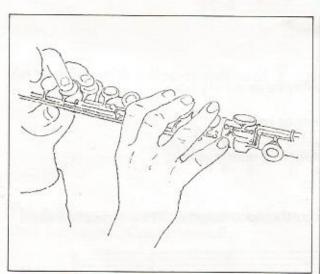
Try to relax your arms and shoulders.

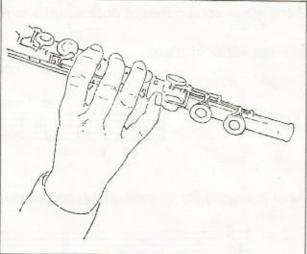
#### Breathing

Put the flute down and take a big breath without raising the shoulders. The stomach should expand followed by the chest. If you have any difficulty doing this, sit in an upright chair and hold on to the seat. Take another breath: this time the stomach should expand. Repeat without the aid of the chair.

#### Some don'ts:

- 1) Don't end the note with the tongue.
- 2) Don't push the flute hard against the mouth to stop it slipping down: tuck the left hand first finger a little under the flute. If the flute is slippery, glue some paper on the place where your first finger should go. Keep the left elbow down.
- 3) Keep the shoulders down when playing and when taking a breath.
- 4) Don't allow the flute to be supported on a flat right hand thumb: it causes the fingers to adopt a strained position and straightens the little finger. Keep the little finger bent (see picture below and on page 3).
- 5) Don't practice with your music on a table: if you haven't a music stand, support it using picture hooks and paper clips, or prop it up on the inside of your flute case if necessary.





Incorrect right hand position

Correct right hand position

#### Practising

Practise every day. The lip muscles, tongue, fingers and breathing all need regular exercise if you are to progress quickly. If possible, try to practise at the *same time* each day. An athlete would soon pull a muscle if he trained only at weekends! Expression in music also needs regular practice.



Musical notes are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet.

They are placed on the staff:

This sign is called a treble clef and shows that the instrument playing

from the staff is a high or treble instrument such as the descant and treble recorders, the violin and the flute.

Music is grouped into bars to show rhythmic stress or accent.

The barline shows the beginning and end of each bar.



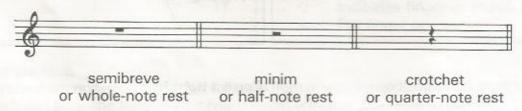
This final double barline (which may be thin or thick and thin) shows the end of a piece of music.

There are several different note lengths in music.

Here are some of them:

- o semibreve or whole-note
- minim or half-note
- crotchet or quarter-note

There are signs for silence which correspond to the note lengths. They are called rests.



#### Time-signatures

A time-signature, in the form of a fraction, is printed at the beginning of each piece to tell you what note values to expect in each bar throughout the piece.

#### Example:

2 = two quarter-notes or crotchets in each bar.

= three quarter-notes or crotchets in each bar.

= four quarter-notes (crotchets) or two half-notes (minims) in each bar.

Now take up your flute and play the exercise below counting four crotchet beats in each bar. Play the notes for their full length. You will use only one note: B.



Play the next exercise; each minim has two beats. Play the minims for their full length.



Play the next exercise; the time-signature shows three crotchet beats in each bar.

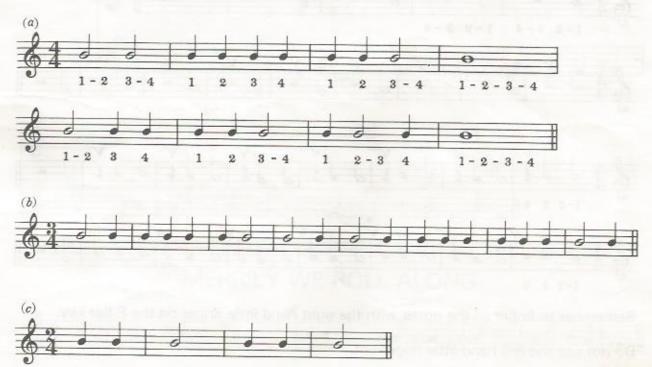


An exercise with a time-signature of  $\frac{2}{4}$  ; two beats in a bar.

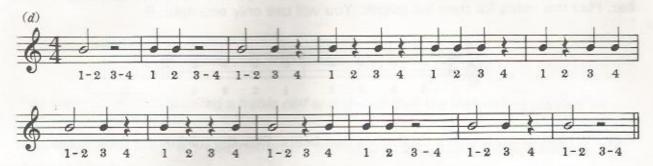




The following exercises contain notes of different values in each bar. Play the notes for their full length. Count carefully.



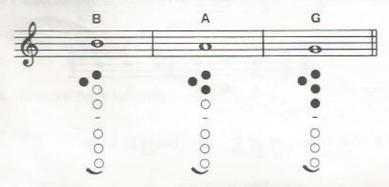
A Final exercise which uses both notes and rests:



Play these exercises to develop a feeling for rhythm. They use only the one note you have learned: B. Do not end each note with the tongue.

If in doubt, sing the exercises, and count at the same time.

Introducing the first three notes B, A and G



Tongue as if making the syllable te at the beginning of each note. It will give the note a clean start. Count carefully.



Remember to finger all the notes with the right hand little finger on the E flat key.

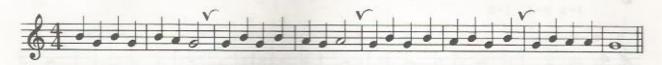
Do not use the left hand little finger yet.



Like speech, music is divided into sentences and phrases. Try to make your breath last until the next breathing place. The music will then sound less broken up.



## FINGER EXERCISE



#### Slurs

A slur is a curved line placed above or below a group of notes:



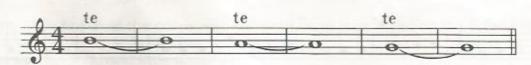
The notes are to be played in one breath tonguing only the first note. Count carefully when slurring.



## AU CLAIR DE LA LUNE

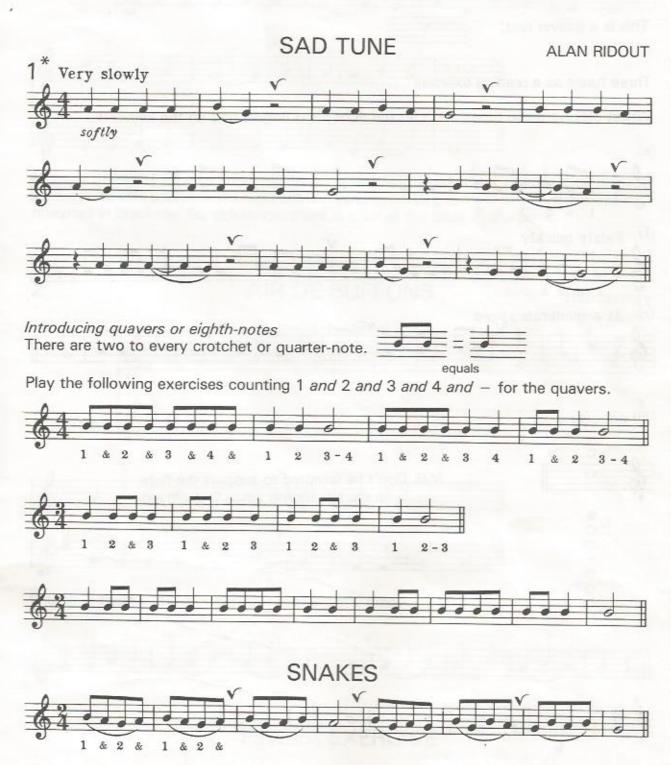


When two notes of the same name are connected with a curved line, their values are added together to make one continuous note. The line is called a *tie*. Don't tongue the second note.



So far, you have played in 4 time: four crotchet beats in a bar. This is sometimes called common time and is marked with a C instead of 4. Notice that the first beat of a bar always seems more important: it should, therefore, have a slight stress.





<sup>\*</sup> All the *numbered* pieces have a piano accompaniment available separately. The pieces sound better with piano or guitar accompaniment.

## RAIN IS FALLING

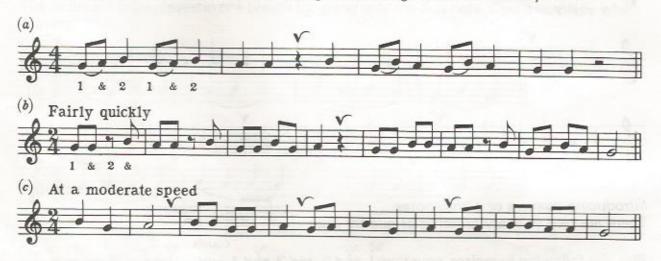


This is a quaver rest:



Three tunes as a reading exercise

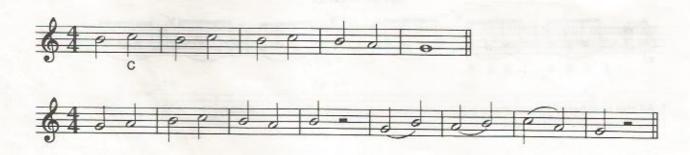
Whilst playing these tunes don't let the right hand fingers rest on the keywork.



#### Introducing C



N.B. Don't be tempted to support the flute with the left thumb when C is played.



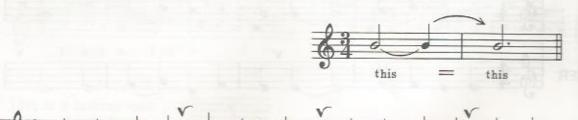


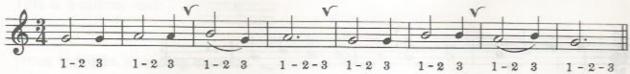
Most of the signs used to show speed in music are written at the start of each piece in Italian. From here onwards, the most common words will be given with the English translation repeated in brackets. For reference, there is a list at the back of the book.



Now check your posture and hand position with the pictures in the front of this book.

. This is a dotted minim: a dot after a note adds half its value to itself.

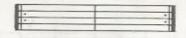


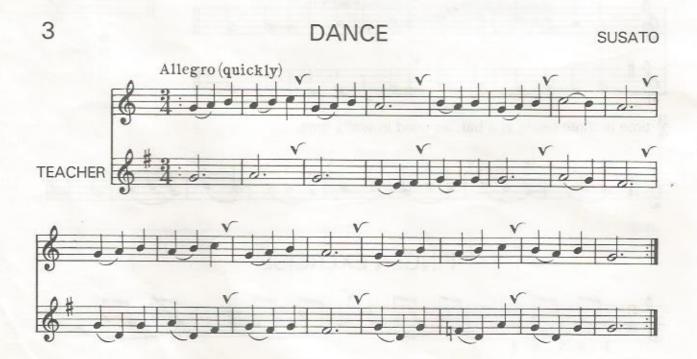


## WALTZ



This is a repeat sign: repeat once all the music between these two signs. If there is only one set, repeat back to the beginning.







1 The first flutes were made many thousands of years ago out of human bones, the tibia (leg bone) being a favourite. Until fairly recent times, tribes in South America would make flutes out of the bones, and drums out of the skins, of their defeated enemies, upon which to make music both to celebrate their victory and honour their foes.

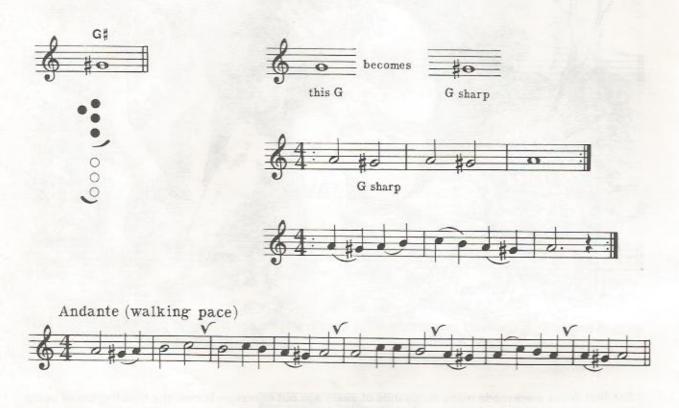


Greek flute players were called Tibiscenes. One of them, Harmonides, in about 440 B.C., confessed to his teacher that his only motive in becoming a flute player was to gratify his vanity. His teacher said that the most certain way to acquire fame was to pay little heed to the many who know how to hiss, and to endeavour to gain the approval of the few who know how to judge. His words fell on deaf ears. At his first competition, Harmonides played with so many contortions and played so eagerly and blew so hard in order to gain popularity, that he suddenly fell dead.

All notes in music can be raised, or lowered, by placing a sign in front of them. The sign for raising a note is \$\pm\$, a sharp. It raises the note against which it is placed. Its effect is cancelled by the barline.

#### Introducing G sharp

Fingering: as for G but add little finger of left hand.

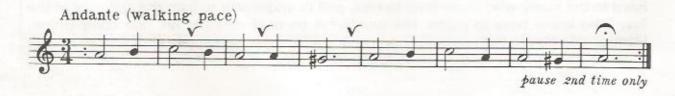


## FINGER EXERCISE

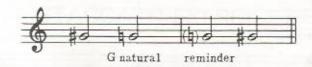


This is a pause sign: A hold the note for a little longer than its written value.





When a previously raised note needs to be restored back to its original sound, a natural sign  $(\natural)$  is used. Its effect is also cancelled by the barline. It is also sometimes used as a reminder.





Work your fingers quickly and firmly on the keys even when playing slowly. Don't raise the fingers higher than necessary. This will help you develop good finger technique.



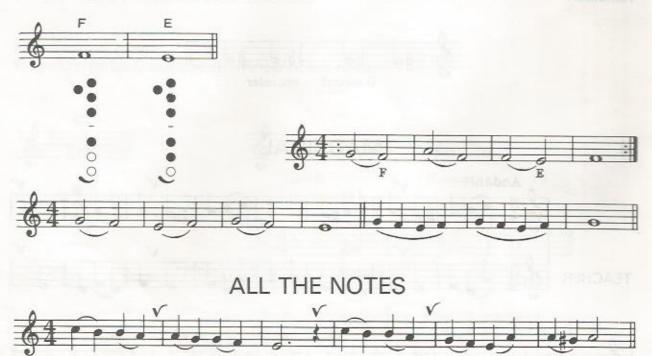
Remember to finger all the notes with the right hand little finger on the E flat key.

## HUNGARIAN FOLKSONG



#### Introducing F and E

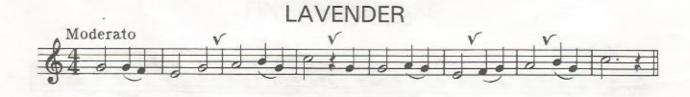
Try not to let the tone get weaker as you play the low notes. Check your hand position with the pictures in the front of the book.



You have already played this familiar tune though using different notes:



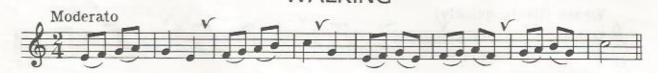






Practise the same tune in with different stress. 

\*\*Time. It should sound the same as in the previous time but WALKING



A dot under or over a note means it should be played shorter than its written length or staccato. Don't stop the notes with the tongue.



#### Tone Development

The development of a beautiful tone is most important to your further progress. In these exercises — and in the exercises which follow — experiment with the speed of the air which you blow into your flute. Does increasing the air speed make a firmer tone? If it does, try: —

- (a) decreasing the size of the hole in your lips through which you blow. Whilst obtaining a *clear* sound, try to be economical with the quantity of air used.
- (b) moving the jaw backwards and forwards slightly, note any improvement. Play each note as long as possible. Take big breaths. Avoid turning the flute blow-hole in on your lip. No more than half should be covered. See the front of this book.

## TONE EXERCISE



This piece starts with an incomplete bar. The note before the barline is called an *upbeat*. Notice how it affects the breathing places.

## **GERMAN DANCE**



N.B. The last bar in German Dance is not complete. The remainder of that bar is contained in the upbeat at the start of the piece.

#### Introducing B flat

Remember that all notes can be both raised ( $\sharp$ ), restored back to the original note ( $\natural$ ), and lowered: the sign to lower a note is called a flat ( $\flat$ ).



### THE STOAT





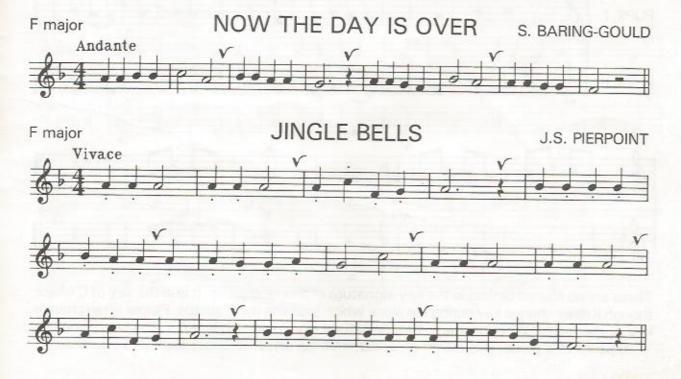
In the last piece, there was a flat sign in front of every B. In the next piece, there is a B flat at the front of the piece to save writing a flat before every B. When sharps or flats appear at the *beginning* of a piece, it is called a *key-signature*.

Play the piece above without the B flats: it sounds rather odd. Notice how the piece seems to want to return to F at the end. This key — one flat — is called F Major. Later in the book you will be playing in other keys.



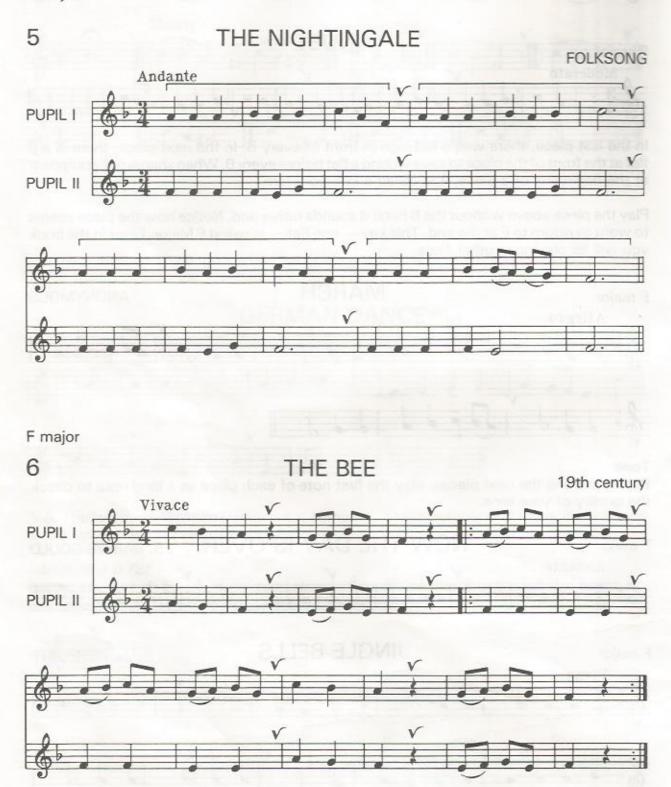
#### Tone

Before starting the next pieces, play the first note of each piece as a long note to check the quality of your tone.



In the next piece, notice that the phrases are three bars long; most phrases in music are four bars long. The phrases are indicated by brackets.

F major

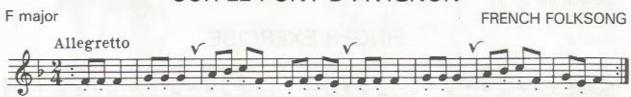


There are no sharps or flats in the key-signature of this next piece. It is in the key of C Major though it does change key during the piece which explains the G sharps. Pieces often change key or *modulate*. When a sharp, flat, or natural sign — which is not in the key-signature — appears in a piece, it is called an *accidental*. Its effect is cancelled by the barline.

C major

Andante (V)

## SUR LE PONT D'AVIGNON



This is an accent: the note over or under which it is placed is attacked strongly with the breath and tongue.

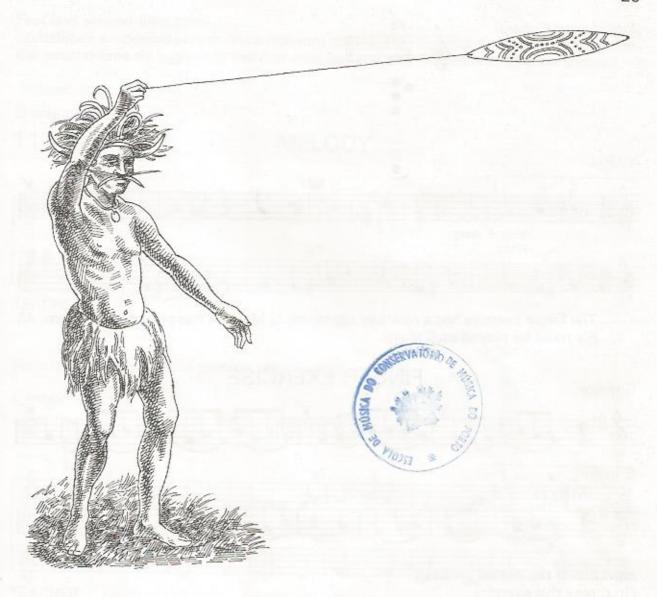


Practise your tone first before playing any of the pieces.



Scales are a series of notes which ascend and descend in ladder-like steps. They are important to the development of finger movements. Practise the exercises carefully and those that follow in the book.





2 This native is whirling a bull-roarer, a primitive sort of flute. It makes a low humming noise. To make one you need: a piece of light wood  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 18" (6.5 cm x 45 cm)  $\frac{1}{8}$ " ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cm) thick and about two yards of nylon string. Cut it to the shape in the drawing and round off the corners with sandpaper. Drill a hole  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2 cm) from one end. Paint it, with decoration as shown, in bright emulsion. Tie a knot in the end of the string. Thread it through the hole. Whirl it around your head.

A tutor who tooted the flute Tried to tutor two tooters to toot Said the two to the tutor Is it easier to toot Or to tutor two tooters to toot?

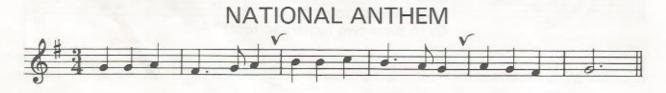


The finger exercise has a new key-signature, G Major: it has one sharp, F sharp. All F's must be played as F sharp.





Exercises 1 and 2 should sound exactly the same. A dotted crotchet is equal to a crotchet plus a quaver.



#### First and second time bars

Sometimes a repeated phrase has a different ending. Play the first six bars and repeat. On the second time through omit the *first-time* bar and play the *second-time* bar instead.



The signs and words to show the style and mood of a piece of music are traditionally written in Italian. Here are some of them:

forte (shortened to f): loudly piano (shortened to p): softly mezzo forte (shortened to mf): moderately loudly mezzo piano (shortened to mp): moderately softly crescendo (also written \_\_\_\_\_ or cresc.): gradually getting louder diminuendo (also written \_\_\_\_\_ or dim.): gradually getting softer rallentando (also shortened to rall.): gradually getting slower

#### Louder and softer:

You may have noticed that, when blowing softer, the note is lower in pitch. To prevent a note from becoming too flat, raise the air stream, when blowing softly, by pushing your jaw forward. Do the reverse when playing loudly. Always listen carefully and adjust the pitch if it doesn't sound right.

Count carefully

F major

13

## RUSTIC DANCE

ALAN RIDOUT



Introducing E flat and D

N.B. For D − no little finger on E key



Another name for E flat is D sharp though it is fingered in the same way. All the notes have more than one name. For a full explanation see page 54. PART II





## LOW NOTE EXERCISE



A key-signature can indicate both a *major* and a *minor* key. Play the two tunes below and notice the different musical flavour.



Even though both tunes have the same key-signature, each one progresses to a different note at the end.

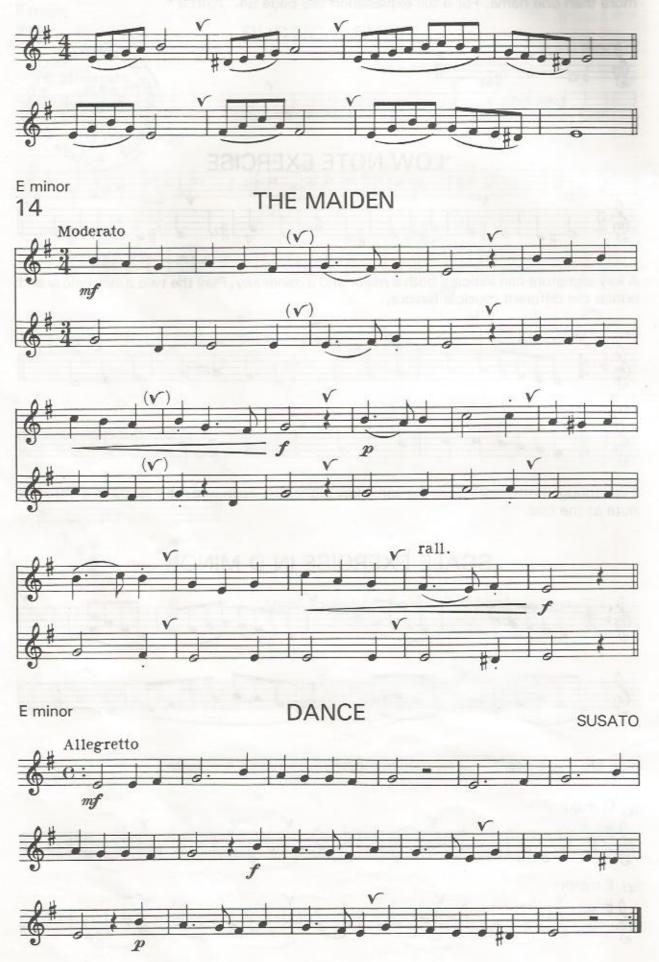
## SCALE EXERCISE IN D MINOR



Here are two more. Minor-key tunes most often have an accidental.



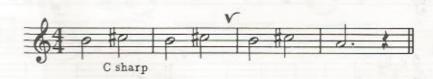
## SCALE EXERCISE IN E MINOR

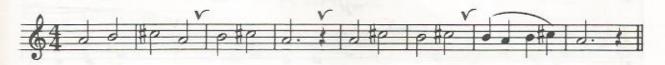


#### Introducing C sharp



Be sure to support the flute correctly with the left hand. See the pictures in the front of this book.





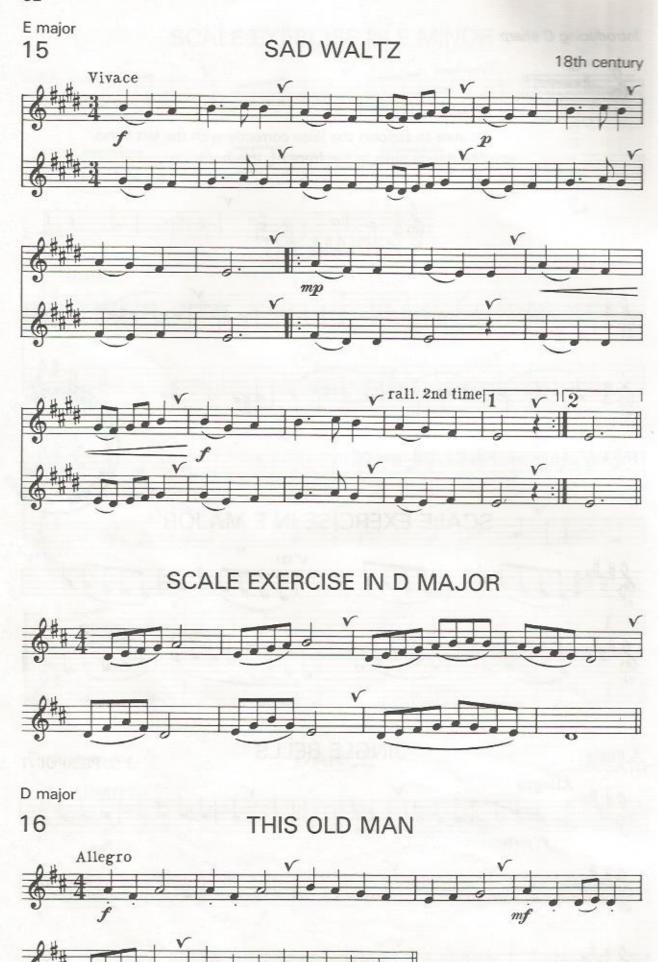


The key of E major: F#, C#, G# and D#.

## SCALE EXERCISE IN E MAJOR







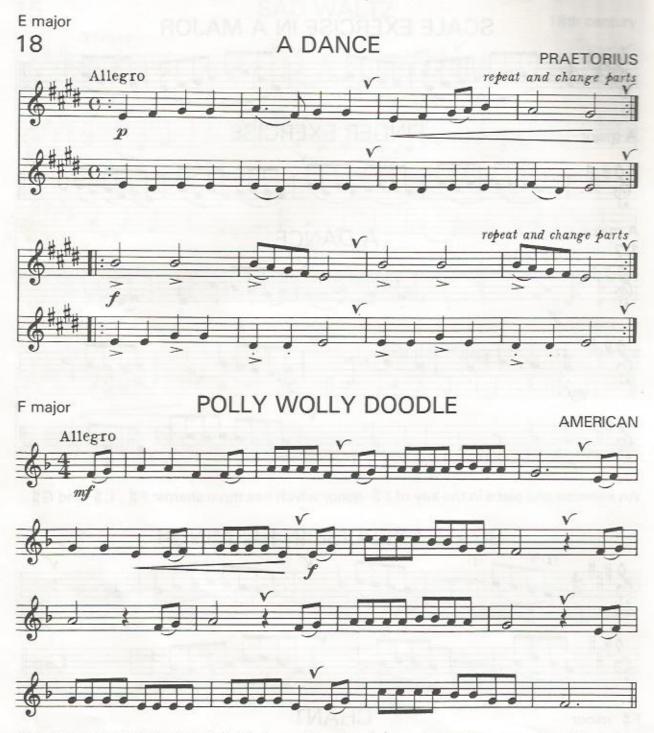
The key here is A major with three sharps: F# , C# and G# .



An exercise and piece in the key of F# minor which has three sharps: F# , C# and G# .

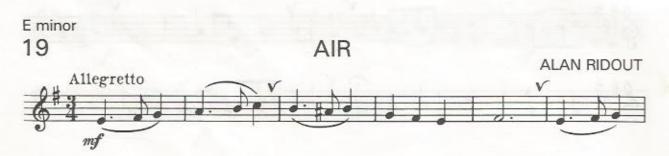


You have already played this piece in another key.

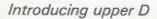


The new note in this piece is in fact an old note! A sharp is another name for B flat. For a full explanation see page 54 PART II.

Finger the A# as for Bb . Count carefully.









No little finger on key.



### SCALE EXERCISE IN G MAJOR



G major

20

### BRANSLE

**GERVAISE** C: JJJJJPPJJ rall. 2nd time 



3 The classical Chinese flute, the Tse. Our modern flutes are descended from this simple bamboo flute which has been in use in China for several thousand years.

'No more the wily note is heard from his full flute, The riving air that tames the snake, Decoys the bird worries the she-wolf from her lair'

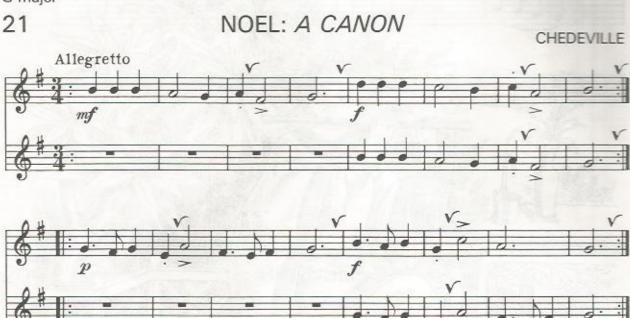
T. G. Hake (1809)

The oars were silver, which to the tune of flutes, kept stroke.

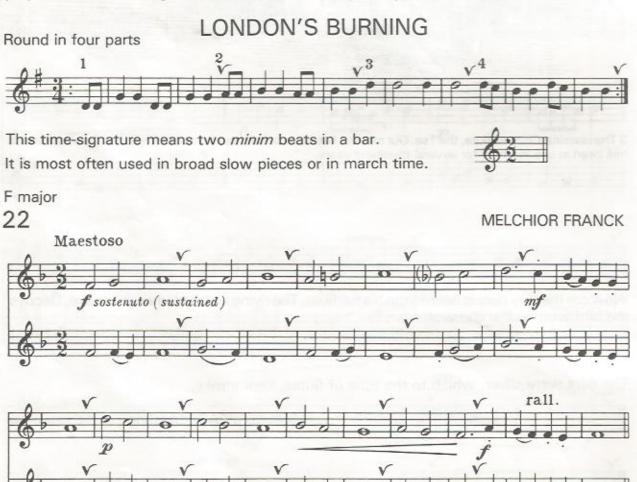
SHAKESPEARE (Anthony and Cleopatra)

A canon is a piece in which the second part exactly imitates the first part.





This is a Round: player II starts when player I reaches the figure 2. Player III starts when player I reaches the figure 3, and so on. Keep repeating until tired of it!



Phrasing

Notice how the breathing marks divide the music into phrases just as in our speech. The signs described earlier (f and p, cresc. etc.) are now going to be used much more in the pieces which you will play. This will help the phrasing.

# SCALE EXERCISE IN G MINOR



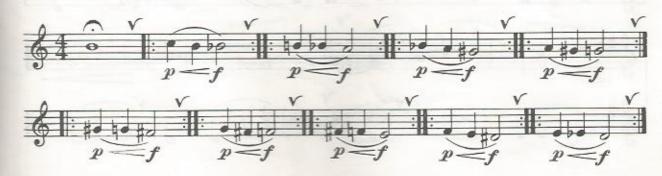
G minor

23

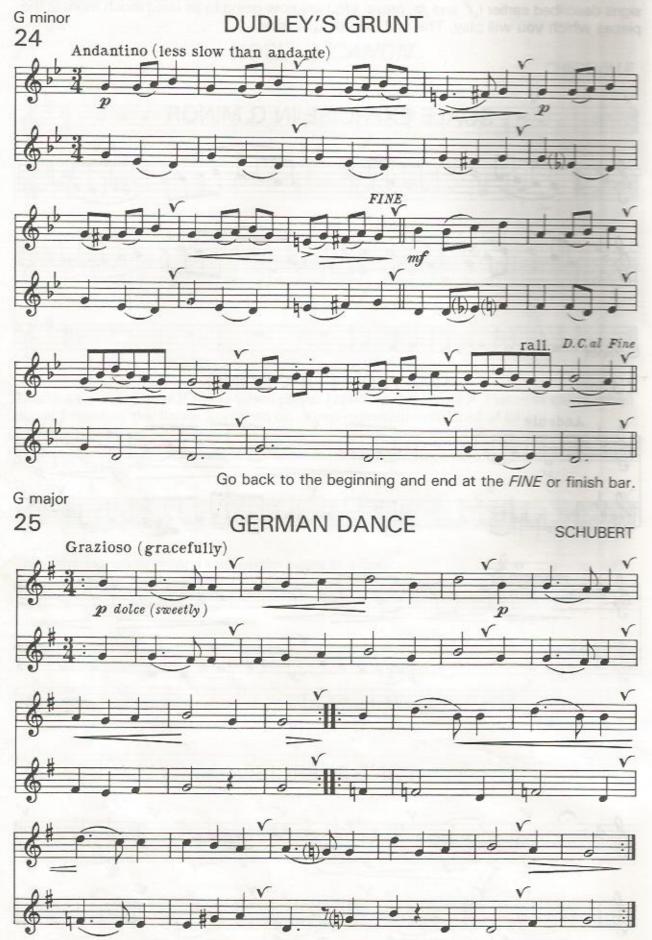
## SWEDISH FOLK SONG



## TONE EXERCISE

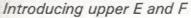


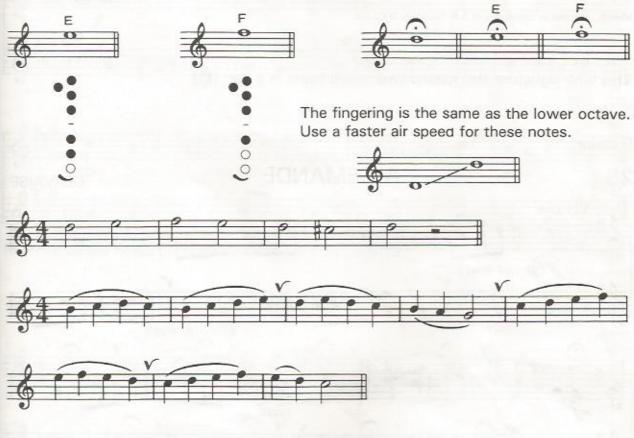
DA CAPO (shortened to D.C.) means go back to the beginning. You will often find the instruction D.C. al FINE.





So far you have learned the notes from D to D' covering eight letter names: D E F G A B C and D'. This span of eight notes is called an octave. For the new notes - E and F - in the second octave, use a faster air speed or they will slip down to the lower octave. Raise the air stream slightly by moving the lower jaw forward. Use the same fingering as the lower octave.





### SCALE EXERCISE IN A MINOR

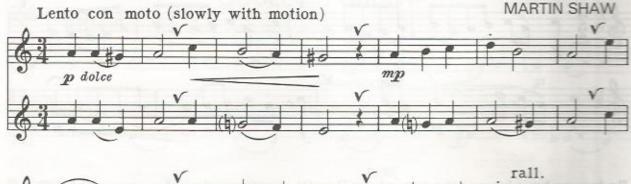




27

# COVENTRY CAROL

Melody arranged by





Melody reprinted by permission of A.R. Mowbray & Co.Ltd.

This time-signature also means two minim beats in a bar: (C)

G major



# SCALE EXERCISE IN A MAJOR



This short line above a note is a tenuto accent: it is a gentle accent and also means that the note is held for its full value.

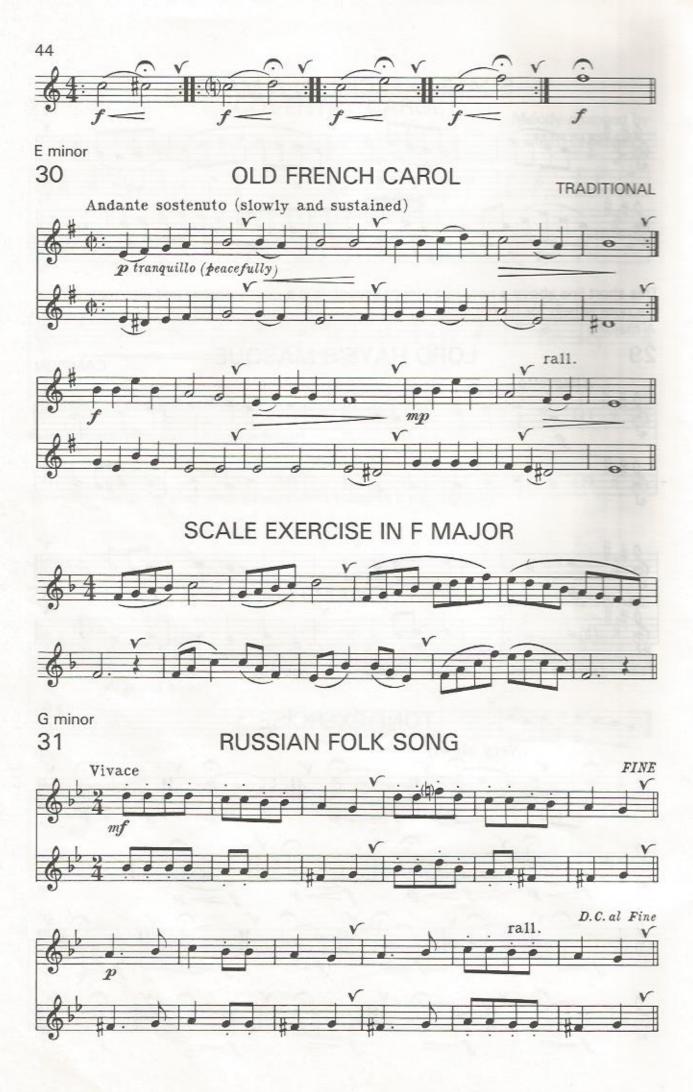
A major



Read again the notes on Tone Development on page 19.

# TONE EXERCISE







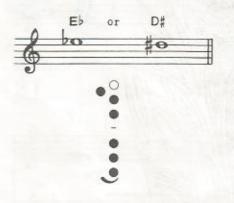
4 The God Pan is playing pan-pipes, another ancient form of the flute. Its invention was thus: Pan fell in love with a beautiful maiden called Syrinx, though she ran away from him and hid in some reeds on a river bank. Pan slashed at the reeds and, not finding her, bound a bunch of canes together to make a flute on which to express his woe. Their love had been uneven, so the length of canes remained uneven: she who was once a beautiful maiden became a musical pipe!

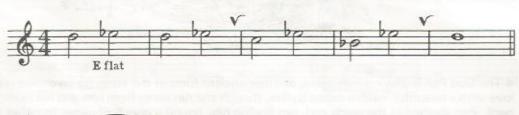
G minor



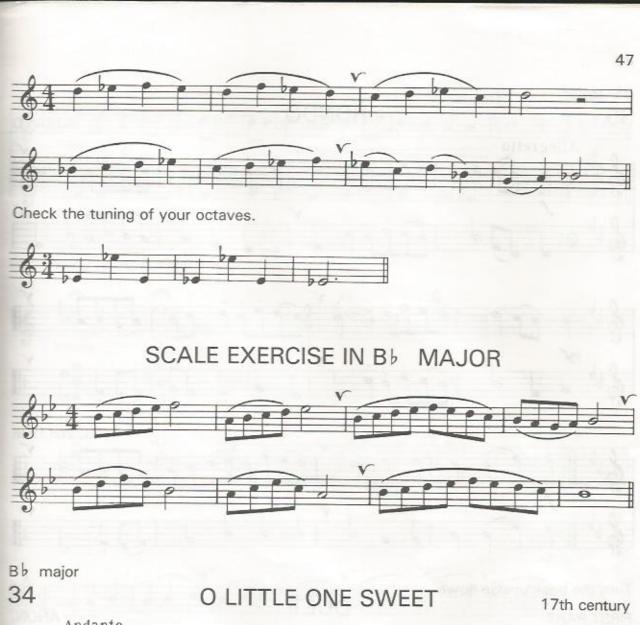
Introducing E flat or D sharp

E b is the same fingering as the low register, but with the first finger L.H. raised.

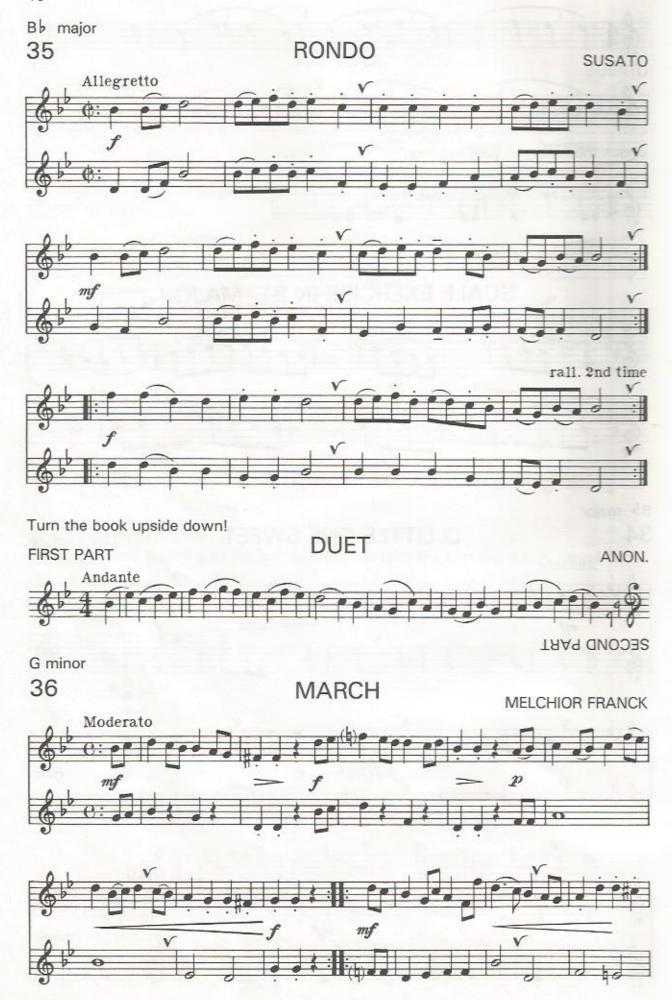














#### Introducing upper F sharp and G







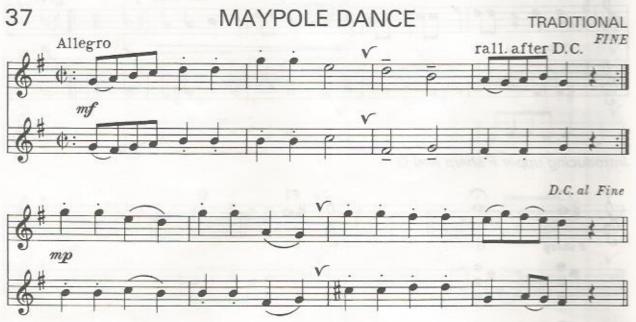
Check the tuning of your octaves.



## SCALE EXERCISE IN G MAJOR







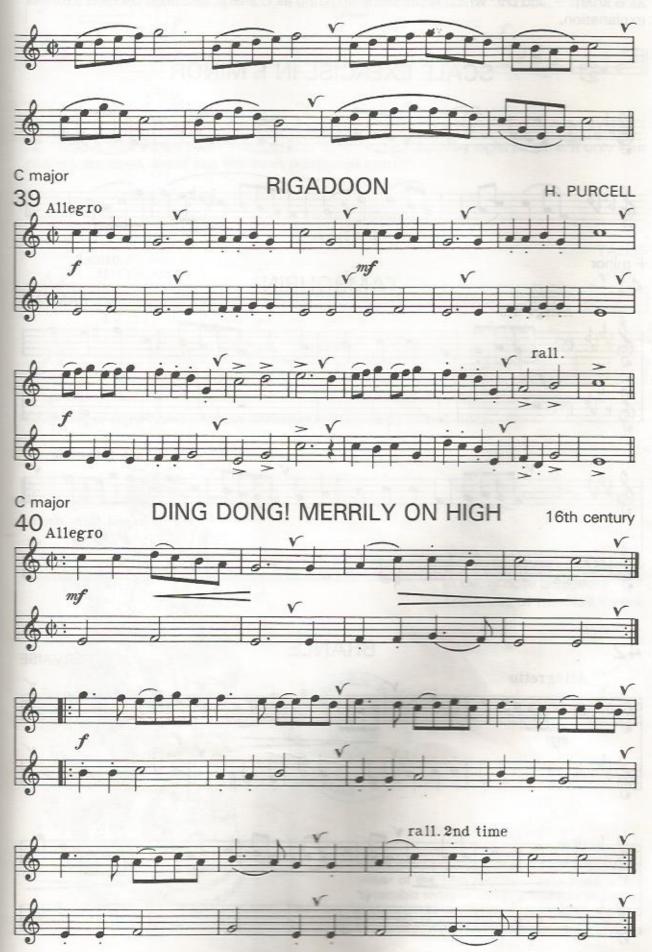
## SCALE EXERCISE IN B MINOR



B minor



# SCALE EXERCISE IN C MAJOR



A new key, F minor with four flats, Bb, Eb, Ab — which is played with the same fingering as G sharp — and Db which is the same fingering as C sharp. See page 54 PART II for full explanation.

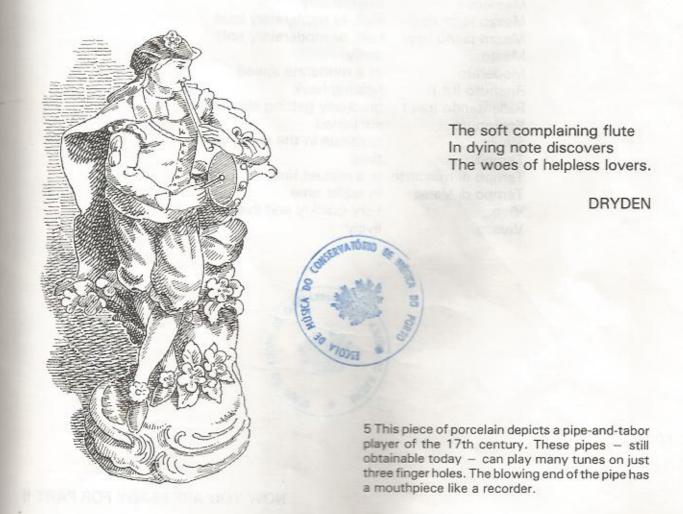




time is four minim beats in a bar. This tune can be played by eight players. If only four players are used, leave out the even numbered entries.



Check your right hand position described in the front of this book.



#### A list of Italian words and their meanings

Allegro quickly

Allegretto less quickly than Allegro

Andante slowly

Andantino less slow than Andante, though some

composers use it to mean less fast (or slower), than Andante. Use your own

judgment.

A tempo in the original time (after slowing down)

Animato animated

Al fine to the finish (after D.C.)

Con spirito with spirit

Crescendo (cresc.) gradually getting louder

Con with

Con moto with motion

Diminuendo (dim.) gradually getting softer

Dolce sweetly

D.C. (da capo) go back to the beginning

Fine the finish loudly Grazioso gracefully

Larghetto less slow than largo

Maestoso maiestically

Mezzo forte (mf) half, or moderately loud Mezzo piano (mp) half, or moderately soft

Mesto sadly

Moderato at a moderate speed

Ritenuto (rit.) holding back

Rallentando (rall.) gradually getting slower

Sostenuto sustained

Simile continue in the same way

Tempo time

Tempo di minuetto in a minuet time Tempo di Valse in waltz time

Vivo very quickly and lively

Vivace lively

