

# My First CLASSICAL RECORDER BOOK

Selected & Edited by  
**L. C. Harnsberger**

## Dedication

May this book inspire a love for classical music to musicians of all ages. The recorder is a perfect instrument to start a musical life. I was fortunate to have a mother who loved classical music and shared her love with me. This book is dedicated to her. In loving memory of Therese Coscarelli Harnsberger 1930–2001.

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Johann Sebastian Bach

## Parts of the Recorder

Although some recorders are made of one single piece, many are made up of three pieces that fit snugly together. The top is called the *head*; the middle is called the *barrel*, and the bottom is called the *bell*.

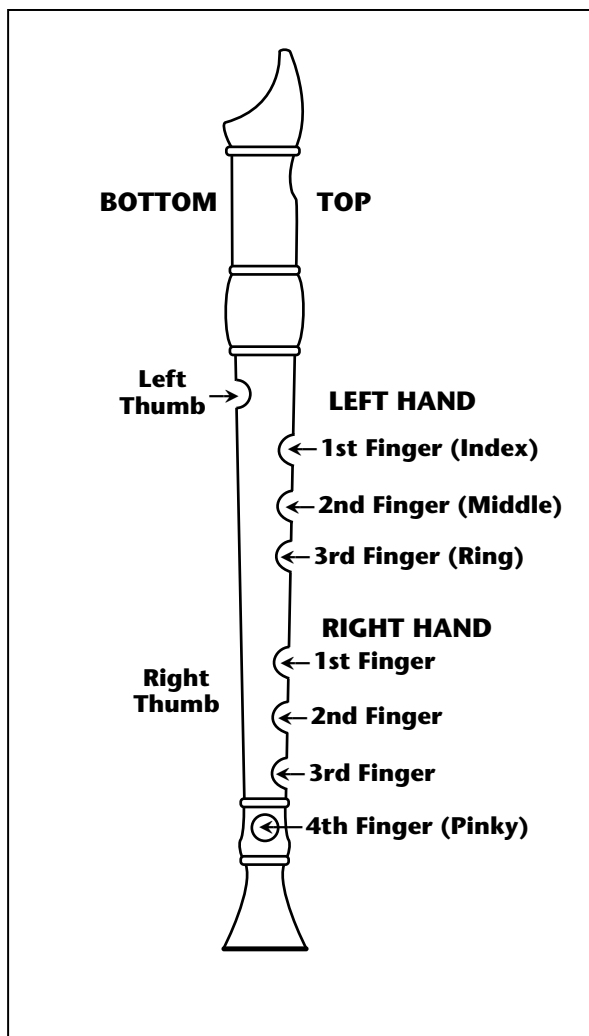
The very top of the head is called the *mouthpiece* which is the part of the recorder into which you blow.

## Care of the Recorder

Each time you finish playing, it is important to run a swab through the recorder to dry all the moisture. A small piece of towel attached to a stick will work well. If you have a three-piece recorder, you may need to occasionally apply a small amount of cork grease to keep the sections from sticking together.

## Holding the Recorder

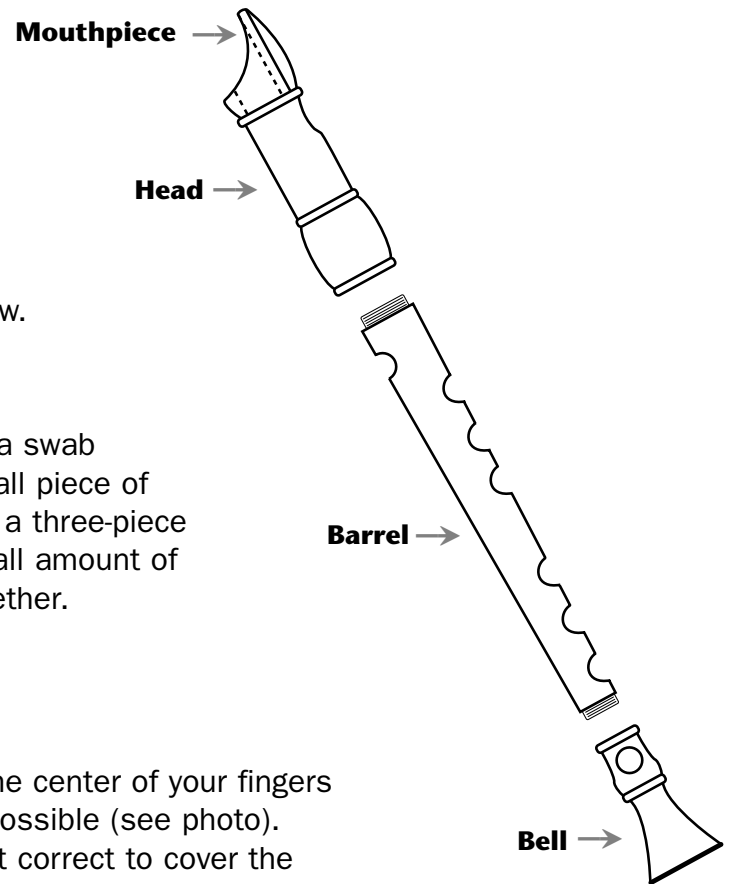
When holding the recorder, it is important to use the center of your fingers to cover each hole, keeping the fingers as flat as possible (see photo).



It is not correct to cover the holes with just the tips of the fingers.

## Playing the Recorder

Be sure not to put any more than one-half inch of the mouthpiece into your mouth. Touch the mouthpiece only with your lips, and be sure not to bite the mouthpiece with your teeth. When blowing into the instrument, it is important not to blow too hard. At first, play softly, because this will help you develop control. To begin a note, lightly tap your tongue against the roof of your mouth as if you were saying "tu."



## 1812 Overture

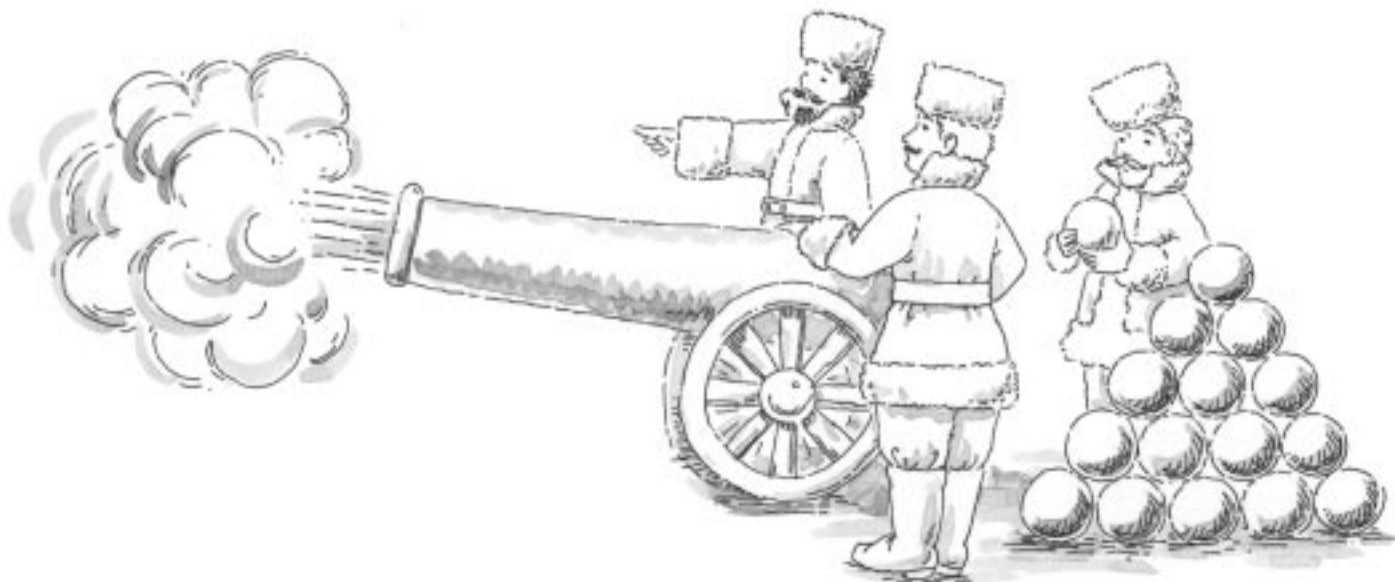
This music is from Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's overture that musically describes the Russian defeat of Napoleon in 1812. At the end of the piece, the composer has actual cannons firing in time with the music!

### Cut Time

This symbol  $\text{C}$  indicates a time signature called Cut Time, which is the same as  $\frac{2}{2}$ .

$\text{C}$  = 2 beats to a measure  
 $\text{C}$  = half note gets one beat

The music looks the same as  $\frac{4}{4}$ , but it is played with a feel of two beats to the measure.



Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

**Allegro**



5



9



13

