



# How to Play Simple Songs on the Recorder

## Video 1: Learning the Songs

### Play Chickalileo

- Show music and individual notes on side

Hi! I'm Vicki Boeckman with the American Recorder Society. In this video series I will help you learn How to Play Simple Songs! I'll show you some basic note values and rhythms. You will learn a couple of different scales or parts of scales. Plus you'll learn how to articulate, or tongue, on the recorder.

One of the important things to remember when playing songs on the recorder is to keep a continuous and beautiful sound even when tonguing. We don't want to stop the air between notes, but we want to keep the air stream even and continuous.

- Demonstrate the differences on a simple tune

It is also very important to be as relaxed and natural as possible. We talked about correct sitting and standing posture in the previous video series. Be aware of any tension in your arms or fingers or jaw. Any tension in the body will make it more difficult to play.

You don't have to learn to read music in order to play simple songs, but you do have to have a good ear and a sense of rhythm so you can imitate or learn by rote or repetition.

Music is a language just as any other spoken language, and I bet you can already do all kinds of rhythms that you didn't even know you could just by speaking or singing songs!

Let's start with a pentatonic scale and some simple American songs that will use this type of scale.

- Play B then go down to A G E D then back up

This first song, starts low on the instrument so be careful not to blow too hard!



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## Video 2: See me Cross the Water in 2/4

### Play See me Cross the Water

- Show music and individual notes on side

Hi! I'm Vicki Boeckman with the American Recorder Society. In this video series I am helping you learn How to Play Simple Songs!

So far you have learned the notes B A G E D and the rhythms: quarter, eighth, and half notes.

Our next song is going to add the middle D and 16<sup>th</sup> notes! Music and rhythms are just like math and fractions, so those of you already good at math will be a whiz at it!

Let's start by practicing the middle D in a few different combinations.

For this note you will need good support and a focused air stream. Be careful not to overblow, as it can get rather sharp on some instruments.

- Play middle D
- Play A – D back and forth
- Play B – D back and forth (show "buttress" finger #6 as optional support)
- Show note values on side: whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth

And now, listen to the articulation of the 16<sup>th</sup> notes. We want these to be crisp and clear. Keep your air flowing evenly and just use the tip of your tongue, and stay very relaxed.

- Play articulation patterns of 8th and 16th notes



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## Video 3: D major scale and triad

### Play Sweet Betsy from Pike in 3/4

- Show music and individual notes on side

Hi! I'm Vicki Boeckman with the American Recorder Society. In this video series I am helping you learn How to Play Simple Songs!

In this segment we are going to learn the D major scale and the D major triad.

We will add two notes, the low F# and the middle C#.

Let's start by practicing them in a few different combinations.

- Play F# - D back and forth, then
- Play F# - E back and forth, then
- Leap from F# to A, then play the triad

Most of all the music we play is built on scales and triads, so once you understand them and your fingers remember them, there is literally no end to the songs you can play! For example: Frere Jacques, Skip to my Lou, Row Row Row your Boat.

There are several types of scales, but for now, let's just focus on the major scales.

This is what the D major scale sounds like.

- Play D major scale slowly
- Break into 2 parts; low D to A and A to middle D
- Talk about switching between B and C#

## Video 4: World's Largest Concert!



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## Play Tue Tue

- Show music and individual notes on side
- Show web site on side
- <http://www.menc.org/events/view/world-s-largest-concert>

Hi! I'm Vicki Boeckman with the American Recorder Society. In this video series I am helping you learn How to Play Simple Songs!

This next song is called Tue Tue. After you learn this song, you will be able to play in the world's largest concert!

Tue Tue uses the same notes that you have learned so far but introduces an element called syncopation.

- Play examples

Even though this song is longer than the songs you have learned so far, there are a lot of the same patterns that are repeated.

- Play examples and show the parts that are the same.

**Video 5: Joe Magarac with C and F**



# How to Play Simple Songs on the Recorder

## Play Joe Magarac

- Show music and individual notes on side
- Show ARS website on side
- <http://www.americanrecorder.org/>

Hi! I'm Vicki Boeckman with the American Recorder Society. In this video series I am helping you learn How to Play Simple Songs! In this segment we are going to learn two new notes, the low C and the low F.

The low C is the lowest note on the soprano recorder. It takes a very low breath pressure, but it still needs support and a steady air flow.

Form your lips loosely around the mouthpiece, but be careful that air doesn't leak out the sides. Imagine that the air is pushing a space in front of your teeth.

- Play low C and
- Show how easy it is to play F and C in succession.
- Play F and neighboring notes

## Closing statement

Now that you have learned all of these notes, there are literally hundreds of songs you can play! If you're interested in learning more, check out the American Recorder Society website. It is full of useful information and will also help you find a local ARS chapter and many new recorder playing friends! The month of March is *Play the Recorder Month* at the American Recorder Society, so gather your friends and join us!