

Woodwinds Triumphant!

I. Announcements

A. Blawenburg Band Holiday Concert

December 12, 2026 at The College of New Jersey, 3:00 pm. Free.

Details on this and other performances are available at <https://blawenburgband.org>

II. What are Woodwind Instruments?

- A. Woodwinds are instruments “that have an enclosed, vibrating air column set into motion by a reed (oboe, clarinet, saxophone, English horn, oboe d’amore) or by blowing across or through an aperture (recorder, flute).” In contrast, the air column in brass instruments is set into motion by the vibration of the player’s lips. All woodwinds have side holes that can be covered or left open so as to vary the effective length of the tube. While the term “woodwinds” implies all are constructed of wood, flutes, piccolos and saxophones are typically made of metal today. (Harvard Dictionary of Music, p. 971)
- B. Like other families of instruments (brass, percussion, strings), woodwind instruments have been modified over time in line with improvements in technology for the construction of instruments. For example, flutes now employ keys following the innovation of Bavarian flutist and industrialist Theobald Boehm, allowing the player to play tones that could typically not be reached without mechanical means.
- C. Each woodwind instrument has more than one version, some designed specifically for the demands set by composers and to generate tones that are in different registers. Example: Conservatoire oboe (most typical), oboe d’amore, English horn—all double reed instruments.
- D. Woodwind instruments are staples of music across the globe: some examples of non-Western woodwinds are the ocarina and panpipes (Latin America), the Shakahachi flute (flute), Duduk (Armenia), Balaban (Azerbaijan), and Kèn Bàu (Vietnam).

III. Woodwinds as Solo Instruments (Individual Works or in Concertos)

- A. Antonio Vivaldi, Bassoon Concerto in F Major
- B. Georg Philipp Telemann, Recorder Duet: Canon-Sonata No. 1 in B flat Major
- C. J. S. Bach, Concerto in D Major for Oboe d’amore in D Major
- D. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Flute Concerto No. 1 in G Major
- E. Aaron Copland, Clarinet Concerto

IV. Woodwinds in Small Ensembles

- A. Francis Poulenc, Sonata for Clarinet and Bassoon
- B. Astor Piazzolla, “Histoire Du Tango” for Wind Quintet
- C. Darius Milhaud, “Suite d’après Corrette” for Wind Trio
- D. Carl Nielsen, Quintet for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn and Bassoon
- E. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, arr. Joseph Heidenreich, Music from Die Zauberflöte

V. Woodwinds in Orchestral Music

- A. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Excerpt from “Posthorn” Serenade
- B. Jean Sibelius, The Swan of Tuonela (From Legends of the Kalevala)
- C. Modest Mussorgsky, Pictures at an Exhibition, “The Old Castle”

VI. YouTube Films

- A. Mozart, Bassoon Concerto:
<https://youtu.be/PYOPQuhdoQM?si=qVBX2M0SSPVaoI45>
- B. Handel, Recorder Sonata: <https://youtu.be/SEZJTUFTQKw?si=7A2V3CRM-Xu6XMNY>
- C. J. S. Bach, “Badinerie” from Orchestral Suite No. 2, featuring transverse flute:
<https://youtu.be/Kl6R4Ui9blc?si=ElnWG9fpokxFNIKc>
- D. Alessandro Marcello, Oboe Concerto: <https://youtu.be/aYnU-CaH0bM?si=4c-RoF-0HtBCbeP2>
- E. Excerpt from Dvorak’s “New World Symphony”, English Horn Solo in Largo Movement: https://youtu.be/ZKgFT_jQ6s4?si=l4FQV4SVeJqTMDU
- F. Dvorak, Wind Serenade: <https://youtu.be/wA73k2n8DE0?si=W0ES6dJU0vdUooOV>
- G. Armenian Duduk performance:
<https://youtu.be/7H5xc8H6dNM?si=6f2wLAplfDKp0uNA>
- H. Balaban and percussion performance:
<https://youtu.be/o56pLKXBKZ0?si=irp86CrHq7VYTbfx>
- I. Leo Rojas Plays PanPipes: https://youtu.be/uOIHHMnI_Ig?si=BT53bjeFpJrLZrPL
- J. Ken Bau and percussion performance:
<https://youtu.be/Iey3GRG6QoE?si=ttCBMeht8VCJsN1e>

VII. Sources

- A. Yamaha Instruments--Woodwind Family Explained.
<https://hub.yamaha.com/winds/wood/the-woodwind-family-explained/>
- B. Wikipedia: Woodwind Instrument.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodwind_instrument.
- C. Ball State University Libraries. “Non-western Instruments.”
<https://bsu.libguides.com/musical-instruments/non-western>
- D. Don Michael Randel, editor, *Harvard Dictionary of Music*. Harvard University Press, 2003.

VIII. Recordings Used Today

- A. *Vivaldi, Concerto per fagotto V*. Naïve OP 30573.
- B. *Telemann: Recorder Duets* Vol. 11. BIS CD 335.
- C. *Oboe d'Amore Concertos*. Naxos 8.570735.
- D. *Mozart: Concertos*. EMI 7243 5 57128 2 0.
- E. *A Clarinet in America*. Orchid Classics 100155.
- F. *Poulenc: Complete Chamber Music, Volume 3*. Naxos 8.553613.
- G. *Piazzolla: Chamber Music*. MDG 345 1392-2.
- H. *20th Century French Wind Trios*. Cedilla Records CDR 90000 040.
- I. *Cinque Venti. Debuutprijs Kamermuziek 2000*. Klara MMP 015.
- J. *Mozart: Die Zauberflöte (arr. for Wind Ensemble)*. Naxos 8.570027.
- K. *Charles Munch, Orchestre National de France*. Disques Montaigne 3 305721 520316.
- L. *Rafael Kubelik: The Collection of East Classics*. Profil PH 19019.