

# Flute Care and Maintenance

Updated 2013

## Supplies:

1. Flute cleaning rod
2. Rectangular cotton rag (an old t-shirt will work) that is approximately 10"x8"
3. Polishing cloth

## Before You Play:

1. Always rinse out your mouth with water
2. Make sure your hands are clean
3. Make sure the case has the correct side up when opening it.

## After You Play

1. Use your cotton rag: Threading the corner of the rag through the cleaning rod hold, fold the rest of the rag over the tip of the rod so that the metal end is covered.
2. Use the rod to swab out each section of the flute to remove moisture build - up. **Do this every time you are done playing and before you put the instrument away!**
  - a. Be careful when cleaning out the headjoint – you don't want to ram the tuning cork on the inside.
3. If the pads get sticky, you may clean them with a dollar bill by putting the bill underneath the key, pressing the key onto the bill, and pulling the bill out from the key. It may take several cleanings to remove the sticky - ness.

## Once Every Two Weeks:

1. Carefully polish the exterior of the flute with a polishing cloth. Be careful with the keys – wipe them individually so as to avoid accidentally ripping one of the keys off with the cloth.
2. Wash the cleaning rag by hand or in the washing machine to avoid mildew.

## Once a Year:

1. Take the instrument into the music store to have a technician re - align the keys, add key oil to the rods, and check for old or damaged pads.

## WARNING:

1. NEVER leave anything extra (book, papers, music) on top of your flute in the case when you close the lid. This can damage your flute. Keep your music and book in its own folder.
2. NEVER leave your flute resting on the music stand – make sure it's in the case, on the chair, or on a flute stand.

*Taking proper care of your flute will keep your instrument playing well!*