A little challenge

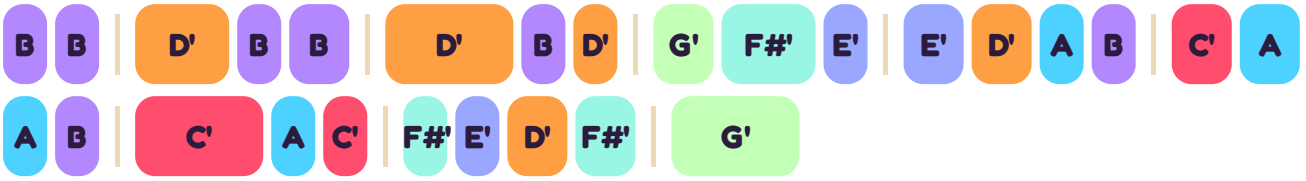
How to play Brahms' Lullaby on the recorder

Guten Abend, gut' Nacht

Brahms' Lullaby recorder notes with letters, for beginners, with a fingering chart for each note.

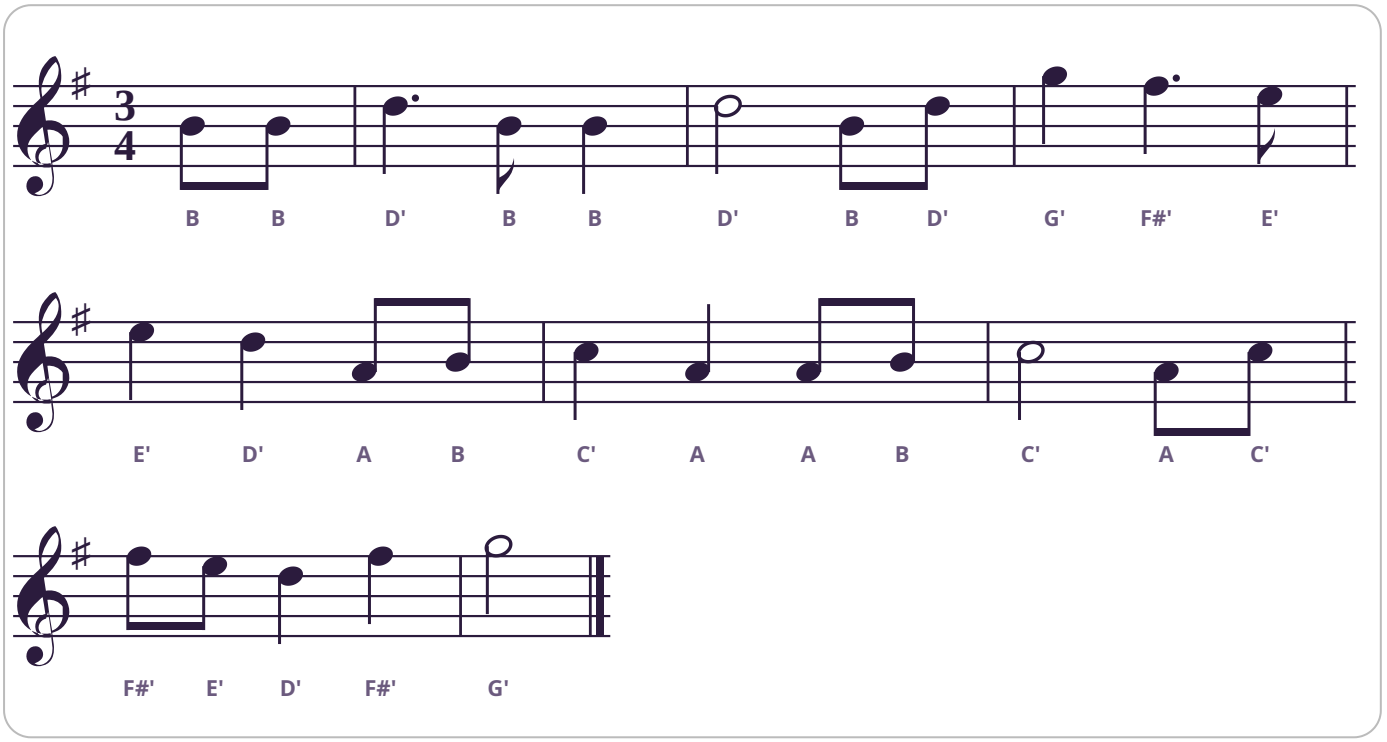
Johannes Brahms' cradle song from 1868, "Guten Abend, gut' Nacht". Play it softly and smoothly: it rises to high G and F#, with the pinched thumb. It uses 7 notes: A, B, high C, high D, high E, high F# and high G. Below are the notes with their rhythm, and the fingering for each one.

The notes



Longer blocks are longer notes; a line marks each bar.

Sheet music



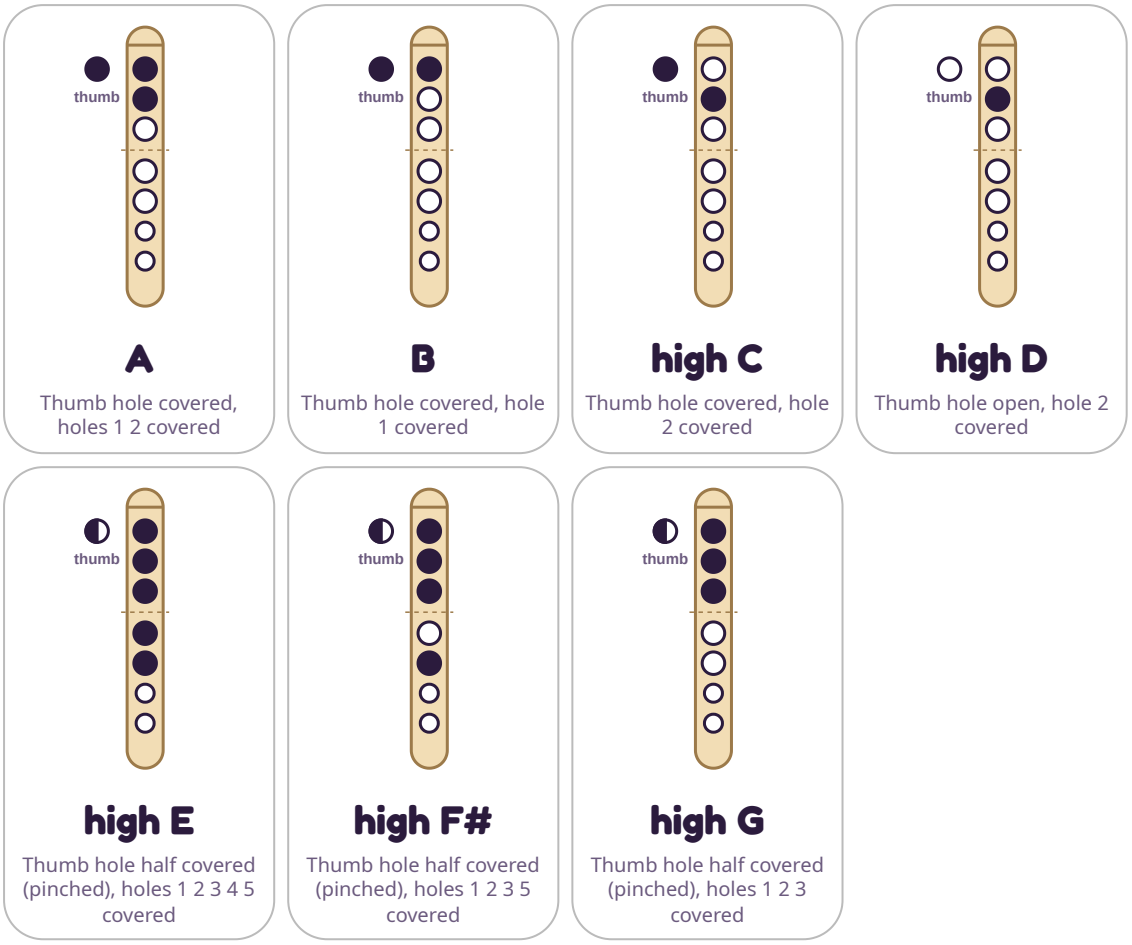
The same song in standard notation, with each note's name under it.

The notes as letters

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B  B  D'  B  B  D'  B  D'  G'  F#'  E'  E'  D'  A  B  C'  A  A  B
C'  A  C'  F#'  E'  D'  F#'  G'
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C', D', E', F#' and G' are the high C, high D, high E, high F# and high G. All for a soprano (descant) recorder, with baroque (English) fingering.

Fingerings



Tap Play to hear a note; tap a fingering card to see how to play it. Filled holes are covered. The left hand is on top (thumb behind, holes 1–3), the right hand below (holes 4–7).

Tips

- Say "doo" into the recorder for each note: the tongue starts every note, so repeated notes sound separate.
- Blow gently, like cooling soup. Too much air makes a squeak an octave up.

- Cover the holes with the soft pads of your fingers, not the tips, so no air leaks out.
- High D has the thumb hole open and only hole 2 covered: just your left middle finger holds it.
- Pinched thumb for high F# and high G, like high E: keep a small gap at the top of the thumb hole and blow steadily.
- High E needs a "pinched" thumb: bend your left thumb so its nail half-covers the thumb hole, leaving a small gap at the top, with holes 1 to 5 covered as for low E.
- For high C, lift your first finger (hole 1) and keep the thumb and hole 2 covered.