A little challenge

How to play Row, Row, Row Your Boat on the recorder

Row, Row, Row Your Boat recorder notes with letters, for beginners, with a fingering chart for each note.

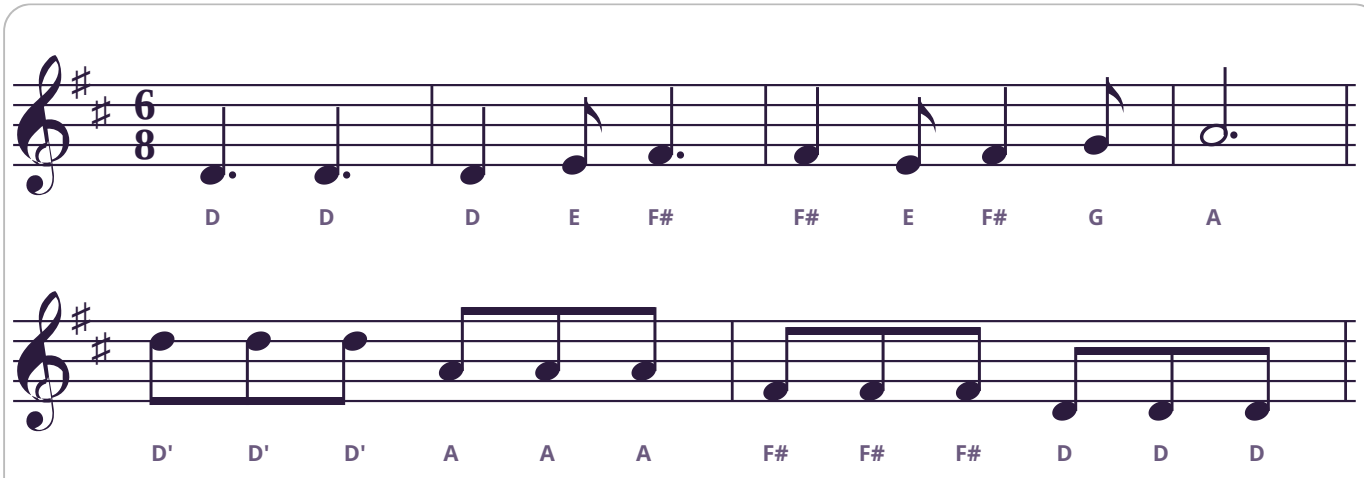
The round from the 1850s. It starts low and slow, climbs to high D, and comes back down quickly: a fun challenge. It uses 6 notes: low D, low E, F#, G, A and high D. Below are the notes with their rhythm, and the fingering for each one.

The notes



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

Sheet music





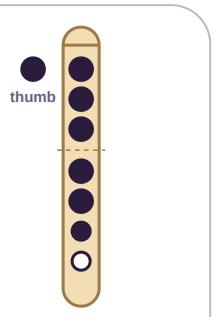
The same song in standard notation, with each note's name under it.

The notes as letters

D D D E F# F# E F# G A D' D' D' A A A F# F# F#
D D D A G F# E D

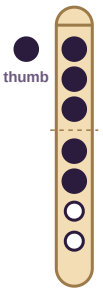
D' is the high D. All for a soprano (descant) recorder, with baroque (English) fingering.

Fingerings



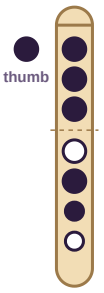
low D

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 4 5 6 covered



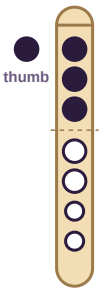
low E

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 4 5 covered



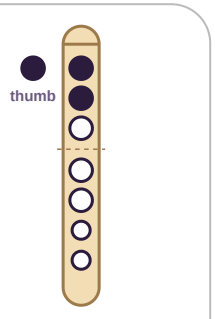
F#

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 5 6 covered



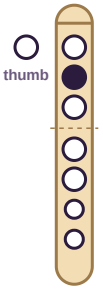
G

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 covered



A

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 covered



high D

Thumb hole open, hole 2 covered

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.
- Low D needs the gentlest breath of all, and every hole sealed: if it squeaks, check your bottom fingers first.
- F# is a "forked" fingering: cover the thumb and holes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6, leaving hole 4 open.
- High D has the thumb hole open and only hole 2 covered: just your left middle finger holds it.