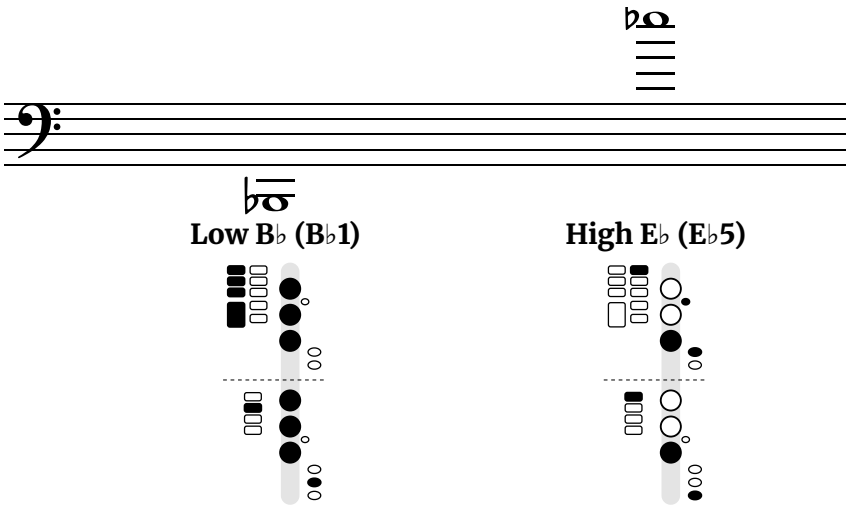
The Bassoon Fingering Chart Book

Every Note from Low B♭ to High E♭, All 12 Major Scales and 28 Songs with the Fingering Under Every Note



Nathan Early

Free edition
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The Bassoon Fingering Chart Book

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The fingerings, diagrams and teaching notes come from thefingeringchart.com, where every note can also be heard. Every fingering was checked against a published manufacturer's bassoon chart, and a few alternate fingerings come from that chart. The fingerings are for the German-system (Heckel) bassoon.

The melodies are traditional or were first published before 1929.

First edition, 2026.

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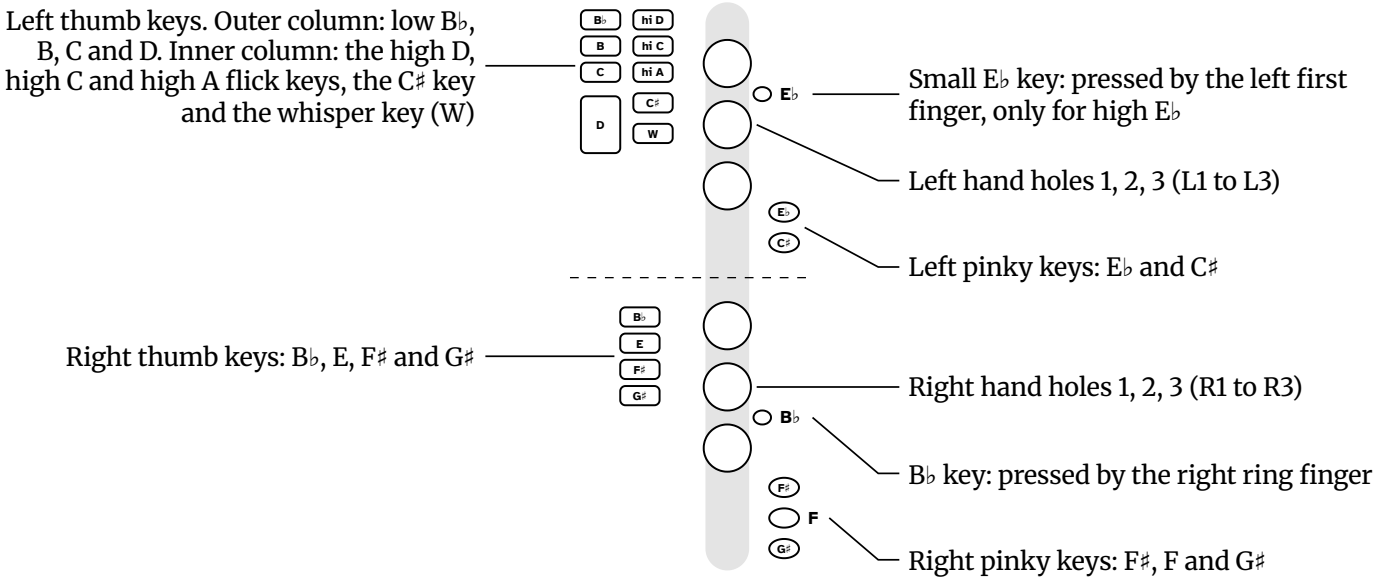
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How to Read This Book

Which bassoon this book is for. The fingerings are for the German-system (Heckel) bassoon, the kind used in schools and orchestras almost everywhere outside France. French-system (Buffet) bassoons use different fingerings. If your bassoon has no high D key, use the high C key instead.



The diagrams

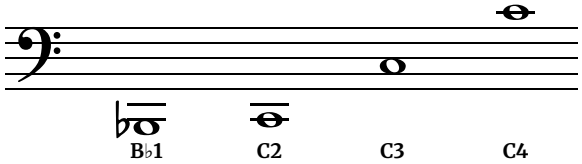
Black means press the key or cover the hole; white means leave it up. A half-black hole is a half-hole (page 5). The dashed line separates the left hand (above) from the right hand (below), and each hand's first finger is at the top. Every fingering is also written out in words, left hand first.

Concert pitch and bass clef

Bassoon reads at concert pitch, so the written note is the note you hear and the scale names match the rest of the band. Bassoon music is in bass clef. High notes are often written in tenor clef; this book shows them in bass clef with ledger lines, the same as on thefingeringchart.com.

Note names

Notes are named with an octave number. C4 is middle C, on the first ledger line above the staff. C3 is in the second space, C2 is on the second ledger line below the staff and the lowest note, B♭1, sits just under it. A sharp and a flat that share a key, like F♯3 and G♭3, are the same note with the same fingering.



The song pages

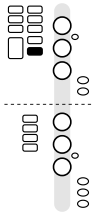
Each note of the melody has its own column: the note on the staff, the key diagram under it, then the word you would sing on it. A dash in the word row means the word carries on from the note before (a slur, or a tie: a curved line joining two notes of the same pitch, played as one long note). Songs without words show the note names instead. "Fingerings used in this song" lists every fingering the song needs.

The Whisper Key and Half-Holes

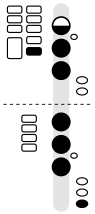
When a note cracks or won't speak, check these two things first.

The whisper key (W)

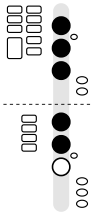
The whisper key closes a small vent hole on the bocal, the curved metal tube the reed sits on. Holding it makes the low and middle notes speak cleanly. Hold it with your left thumb for every note from low E (E2) up to G♯3, and again for G4 and G♯4. The lowest notes, B♭1 to E♭2, leave it off because the left thumb is on the low keys. If notes in the middle of the staff crack, the whisper key is probably up.



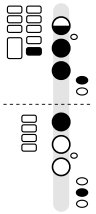
F3
Only W is down.



G♯3
The last note with W before A3.



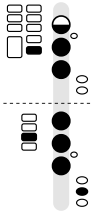
A3
W comes off.



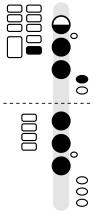
G4
W comes back for G4 and G♯4.

Half-holes

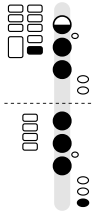
A half-black first hole means half-hole: roll your left first finger down toward the second finger so the top part of the hole opens. How much to open depends on the note. On D5 the second finger half-holes instead.



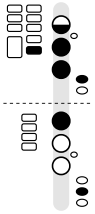
F♯3
Leave a little more than half of the hole open.



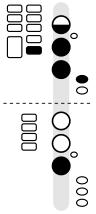
G3
Cover about half of the hole.



G♯3
Cover a little more than half.



G4
Half-hole and whisper key come back.



G♯4
Cover a little more than half.

Low notes won't sound

Seal every hole and use relaxed, steady air. Check that the bocal's small whisper hole isn't clogged and the reed is wet. Can't reach the right thumb keys. Adjust the seat strap or hand rest so the right thumb hovers over the E, F♯ and B♭ keys without stretching.

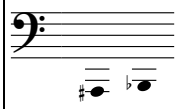
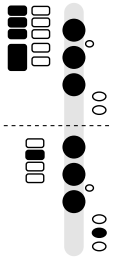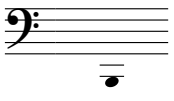
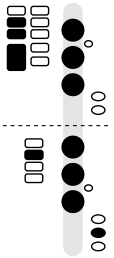
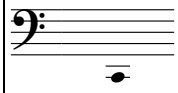
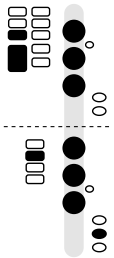
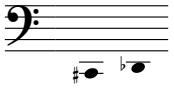
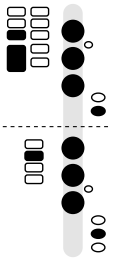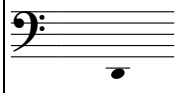
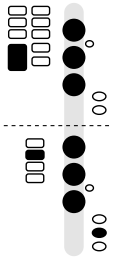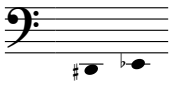
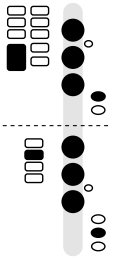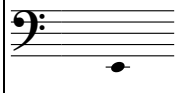
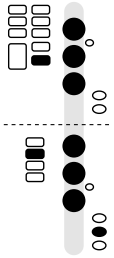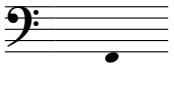
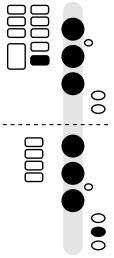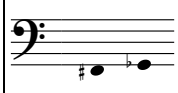
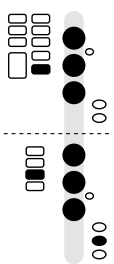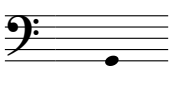
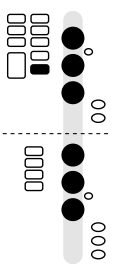
Worked example: F3 to G3

F3 sits on the fourth line of the bass clef staff, and it is a good place to start. Its diagram is almost empty: only the W next to the column is filled. That means hold the whisper key with your left thumb and leave every hole and other key open. F3 sounds at about 175 Hz and is often one of the first notes beginners play. Now step up to G3, a whole step higher. The whisper key stays down, all six holes close, the left pinky adds E♭, and the top circle is half filled. Roll the left index finger so a little of that hole opens. If G3 cracks or jumps, check that the whisper key is still pressed and the half-hole is open about halfway.

The Fingering Chart: Low Notes
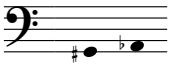
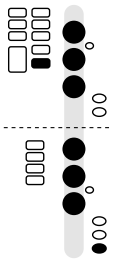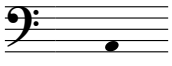
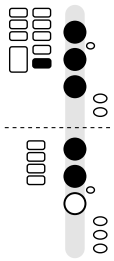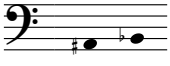
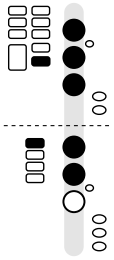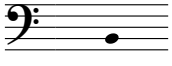
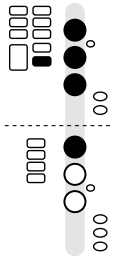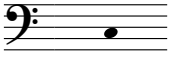
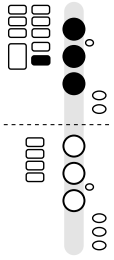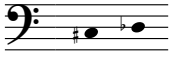
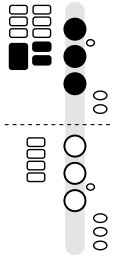
The six large circles are the main holes, left hand above the dashed line and right hand below, with your first finger at the top of each hand. Thumb keys are at the left and pinky keys at the right. Black means press the key or cover the hole; white means leave it up. Bassoon reads at concert pitch in bass clef.

LOW NOTES
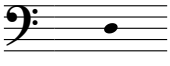
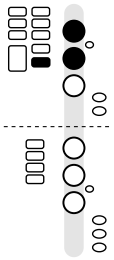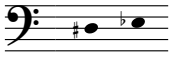
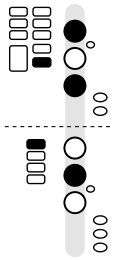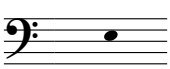
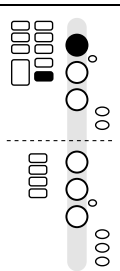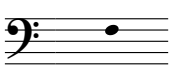
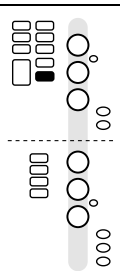
Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering	Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering
	**A♯1 / B♭1**		Left hand: thumb low B♭ key, thumb low B key, thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.		**B1**		Left hand: thumb low B key, thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.
	**C2**		Left hand: thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.		**C♯2 / D♭2**		Left hand: thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3, pinky C♯ key. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.
	**D2**		Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.		**D♯2 / E♭2**		Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.
	**E2**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.		**F2**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.
	**F♯2 / G♭2**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb F♯ key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key. *Alternate: Right pinky F♯ key. See page 15.*		**G2**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.

The Fingering Chart: Low and Middle Notes

LOW NOTES
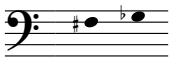
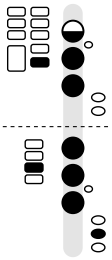
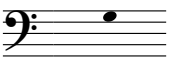
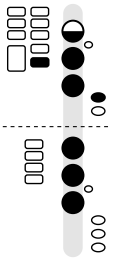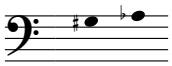
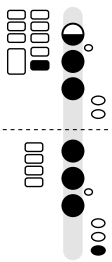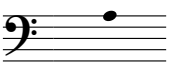
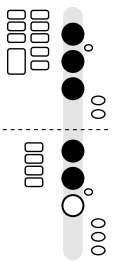
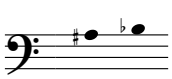
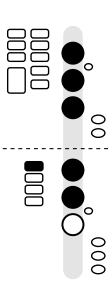
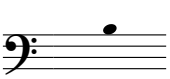
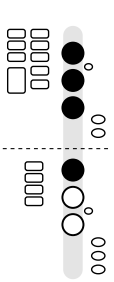
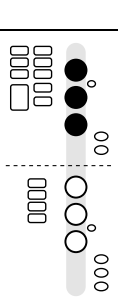
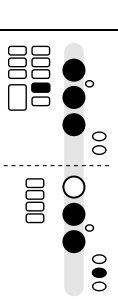
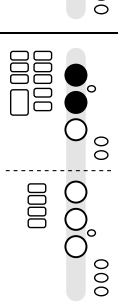
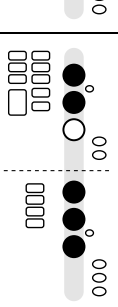
Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering	Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering
	**G♯2 / A♭2**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky G♯ key. *Alternate: Right thumb A♭ key. See page 16.*		**A2**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.
	**A♯2 / B♭2**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2. *Alternate: Right-hand B♭ finger key. See page 17.*		**B2**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1.
	**C3**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.		**C♯3 / D♭3**		Left hand: **whisper key**, thumb low D key, thumb C♯ key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.

MIDDLE NOTES

Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering	Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering
	**D3**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.		**D♯3 / E♭3**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2. *Alternates: Fast passages, Plain fingering with left pinky E♭, B♭ thumb and right first finger. See page 19.*
	**E3**		Left hand: **whisper key**, 1. Right hand: nothing down.		**F3**		Left hand: **whisper key**. Right hand: nothing down.

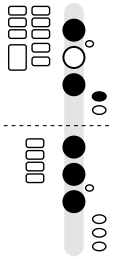
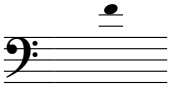
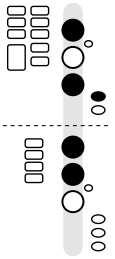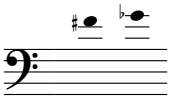
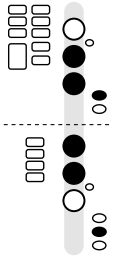
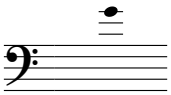
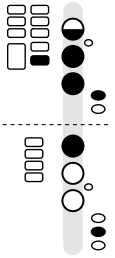
The Fingering Chart: Middle Notes

MIDDLE NOTES

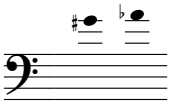
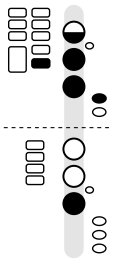
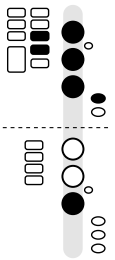
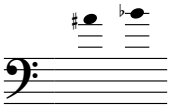
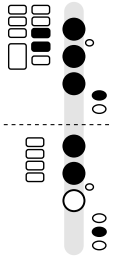
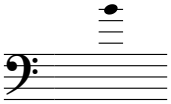
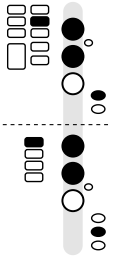
Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering	Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering
	**F♯3 / G♭3**		Left hand: **whisper key**, **half-hole 1**, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb F♯ key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key. *Alternate: Right pinky F♯ key. See page 21.*		**G3**		Left hand: **whisper key**, **half-hole 1**, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
	**G♯3 / A♭3**		Left hand: **whisper key**, **half-hole 1**, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky G♯ key. *Alternate: Right thumb A♭ key. See page 22.*		**A3**		Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2. *Alternate: Flick: high A key. See page 22.*
	**A♯3 / B♭3**		Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2. *Alternates: Right-hand B♭ finger key, Flick: high C key, High C flick with the right-hand B♭ key. See page 23.*		**B3**		Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1. *Alternate: Flick: high C key. See page 23.*
	**C4**		Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down. *Alternate: Flick: high C key. See page 24.*		**C♯4 / D♭4**		Left hand: thumb C♯ key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 2, 3, pinky F key. *Alternate: Fast passages. See page 24.*
	**D4**		Left hand: 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down. *Alternates: Flick: high D key, Add R2, R3 and pinky F. See page 25.*		**D♯4 / E♭4**		Left hand: 1, 2. Right hand: 1, 2, 3. *Alternate: Without right first finger. See page 25.*

The Fingering Chart: Middle and High Notes

MIDDLE NOTES

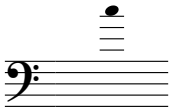
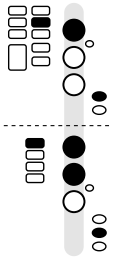
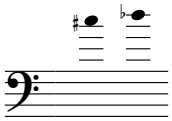
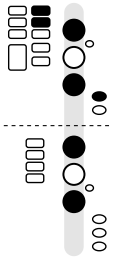
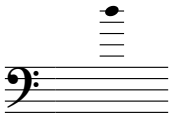
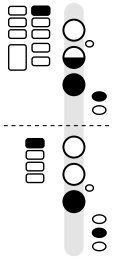
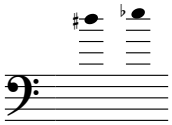
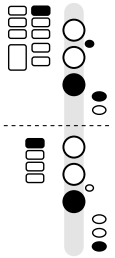
Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering	Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering
	**E4**		Left hand: 1, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.		**F4**		Left hand: 1, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2.
	**F♯4 / G♭4**		Left hand: 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, pinky F key. *Alternates: B♭ thumb instead of F, Half-hole first finger, whisper key, Left third finger up. See page 27.*		**G4**		Left hand: **whisper key**, **half-hole 1**, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, pinky F key.

HIGH NOTES

Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering	Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering
	**G♯4 / A♭4**		Left hand: **whisper key**, **half-hole 1**, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 3. **ADVANCED**		**A4**		Left hand: high A flick key, thumb C♯ key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 3. **ADVANCED**
	**A♯4 / B♭4**		Left hand: high A flick key, thumb C♯ key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, pinky F key. **ADVANCED**		**B4**		Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 2, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2, pinky F key. *Alternate: Without B♭ thumb. See page 29.* **ADVANCED**

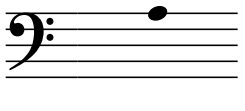
The Fingering Chart: High Notes

HIGH NOTES

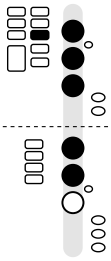
Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering	Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Keys	Fingering
	**C5**		Left hand: high C flick key, 1, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2, pinky F key. *Alternate: Without B♭ thumb. See page 30.* **ADVANCED**		**C♯5 / D♭5**		Left hand: high D flick key, high C flick key, 1, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 3. *Alternates: High D key only, High C key only. See page 30.* **ADVANCED**
	**D5**		Left hand: high D flick key, **half-hole 2**, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 3, pinky F key. *Alternates: Second hole open, A♭ pinky, Half-hole 2 with pinky A♭, no B♭ thumb. See page 31.* **ADVANCED**		**D♯5 / E♭5**		Left hand: high D flick key, small E♭ key, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 3, pinky G♯ key. *Alternate: Half-hole with C♯ thumb. See page 31.* **ADVANCED**

FLICK KEYS FOR A, B♭, B, C AND D
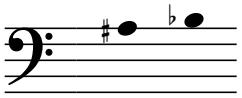
Flick keys are the small A, C and D keys under the left thumb. For A3, C4 and D4, bassoonists tap or press one of them just as the note starts, especially when slurring up from a lower note. This helps the note start cleanly without cracking. B♭3 and B3 use the high C key too. The flick key is drawn black; tap it as the note starts, then let go. If your bassoon has no high D key, use the high C key for D4.



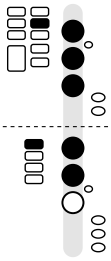
A3



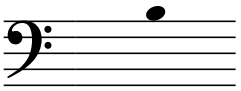
Tap the high A key
Left hand: high A flick key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.



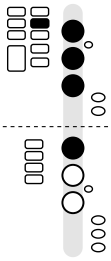
B♭3



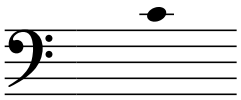
Tap the high C key
Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.



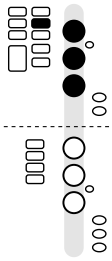
B3



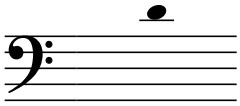
Tap the high C key
Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1.



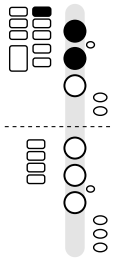
C4



Tap the high C key
Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.



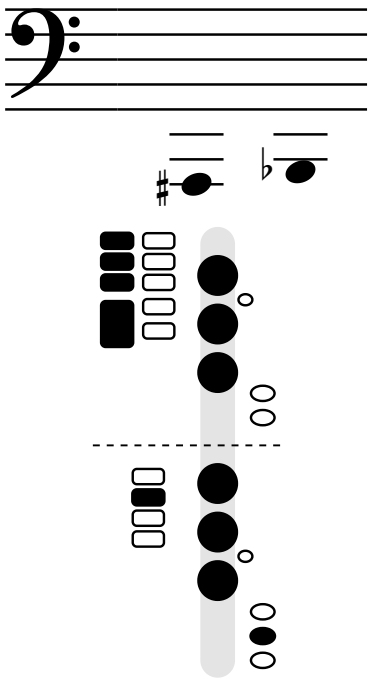
D4



Tap the high D key
Left hand: high D flick key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.

Low B♭ · A♯1 / B♭1

Low register



The lowest standard note on the bassoon is B♭, written just below the second ledger line below the staff.

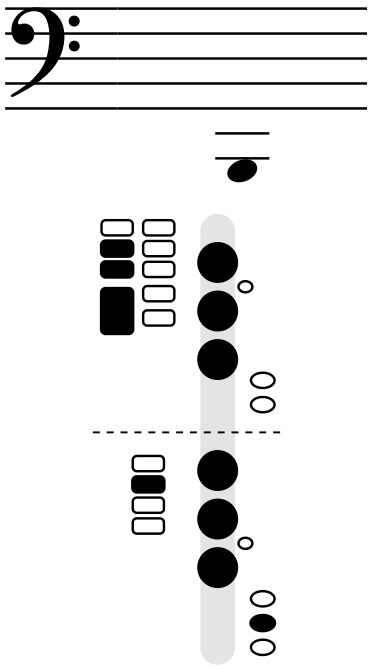
Fingering: Left hand: thumb low B♭ key, thumb low B key, thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key. *Press all four low keys with the left thumb; this is the lowest note.*

Half step above: B1 (page 11)

In this book: Songs: The First Noel (52), Joy to the World (56).

Low B · B1

Low register



Low B on the bassoon is the B written just below the second ledger line below the staff (B1 in octave numbers).

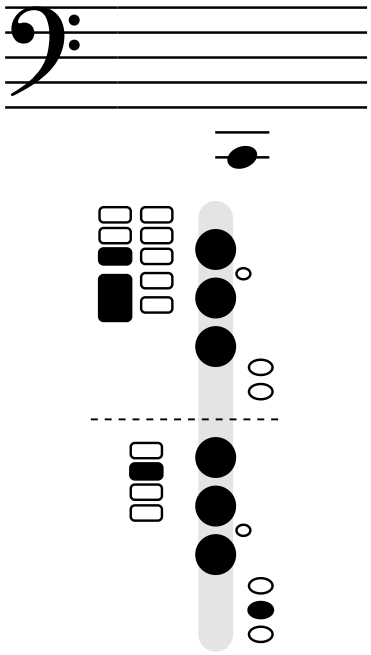
Fingering: Left hand: thumb low B key, thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.

Half step below: A♯1 / B♭1 (page 11) · **Half step above:** C2 (page 12)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 6.

Low C · C2

Low register



Low C on the bassoon is the C written on the second ledger line below the staff (C2 in octave numbers).

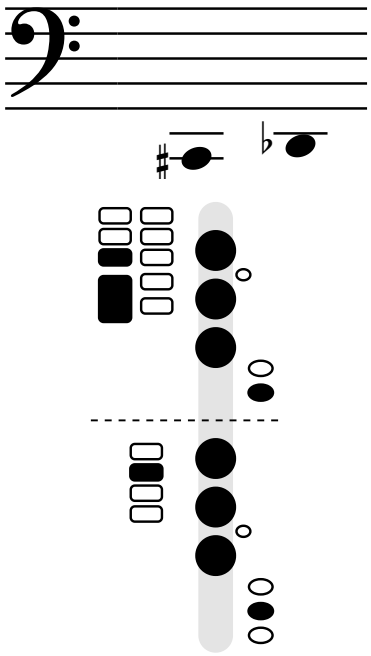
Fingering: Left hand: thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.

Half step below: B1 (page 11) · **Half step above:** C♯2 / D♭2 (page 12)

In this book: Songs: The First Noel (52), Joy to the World (56), America the Beautiful (67).

Low C♯ · C♯2 / D♭2

Low register



Low C♯ on the bassoon is the C♯ written on the second ledger line below the staff (C♯2 in octave numbers). It is the same note as D♭, so the same fingering works for both.

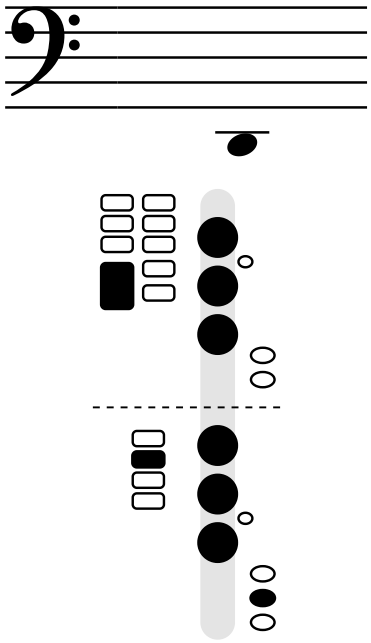
Fingering: Left hand: thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3, pinky C♯ key. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key. *Add the C♯ key with the left pinky.*

Half step below: C2 (page 12) · **Half step above:** D2 (page 13)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 6.

Low D · D2

Low register



Low D on the bassoon is the D written just below the first ledger line below the staff (D2 in octave numbers).

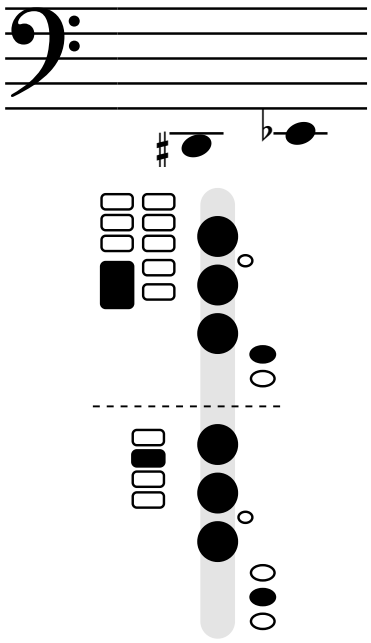
Fingering: Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.

Half step below: C♯2 / D♭2 (page 12) · **Half step above:** D♯2 / E♭2 (page 13)

In this book: Songs: The First Noel (52), Joy to the World (56), Yankee Doodle (65), America the Beautiful (67), Battle Hymn of the Republic (68).

Low E♭ · D♯2 / E♭2

Low register



Low E♭ on the bassoon is the E♭ written on the first ledger line below the staff (E♭2 in octave numbers). It is the same note as D♯, so the same fingering works for both.

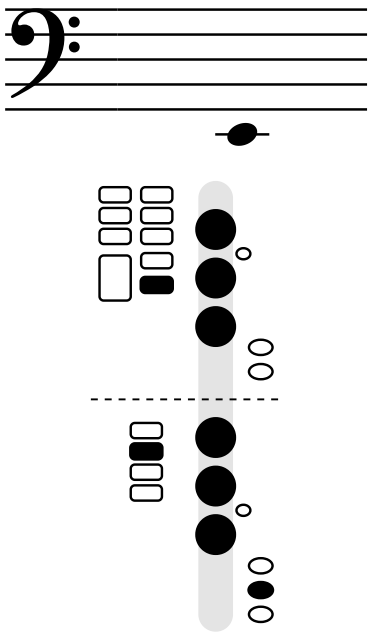
Fingering: Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key. *Add the E♭ key with the left pinky.*

Half step below: D2 (page 13) · **Half step above:** E2 (page 14)

In this book: Songs: The First Noel (52), Joy to the World (56), Yankee Doodle (65), America the Beautiful (67), Battle Hymn of the Republic (68). Scales: E♭ (32).

Low E · E2

Low register



Low E on the bassoon is the E written on the first ledger line below the staff (E2 in octave numbers).

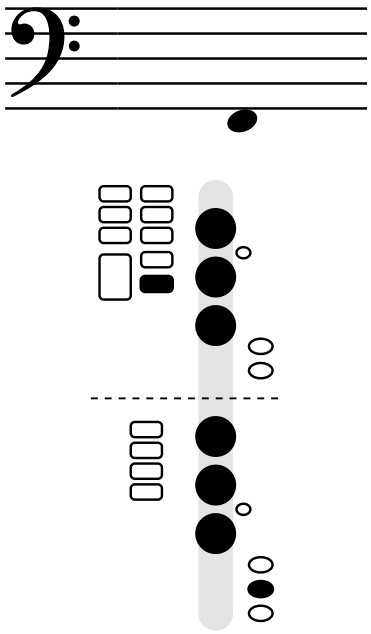
Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key. *Right thumb presses the E key.*

Half step below: D♯2 / E♭2 (page 13) · **Half step above:** F2 (page 14)

In this book: Scales: E (37).

Low F · F2

Low register



Low F on the bassoon is the F written just below the staff (F2 in octave numbers).

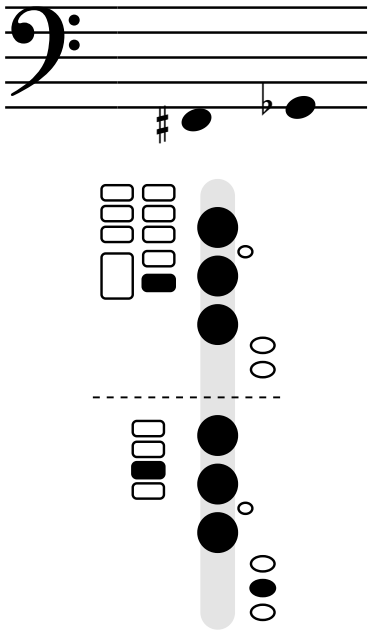
Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.

Half step below: E2 (page 14) · **Half step above:** F♯2 / G♭2 (page 15)

In this book: Songs: Happy Birthday (44), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (46), Good King Wenceslas (47), Away in a Manger (50), Auld Lang Syne (51), The First Noel (52), O Come, All Ye Faithful (54), Joy to the World (56), O Christmas Tree (57), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (58), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (60), Angels We Have Heard on High (62), Silent Night (63), Taps (64), Yankee Doodle (65), America the Beautiful (67), Battle Hymn of the Republic (68), The Star-Spangled Banner (70), Anchors Aweigh (72). Scales: E♭ (32), F (33).

Low F♯ · F♯2 / G♭2

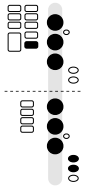
Low register



Low F♯ on the bassoon is the F♯ written just below the staff (F♯2 in octave numbers). It is the same note as G♭, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb F♯ key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key. *Use the pinky F♯ key when the right thumb is busy on a nearby note.*

Alternate fingering



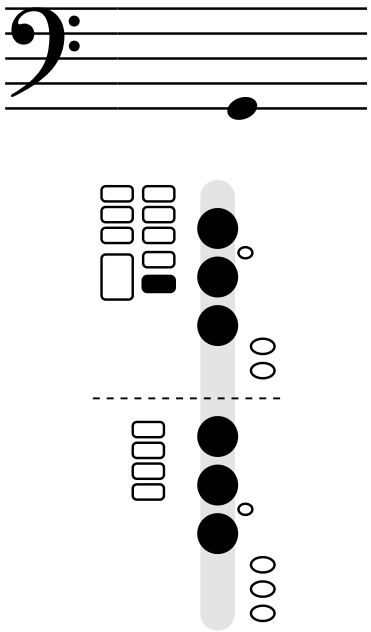
Right pinky F♯ key
Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F♯ key, pinky F key.

Half step below: F2 (page 14) · **Half step above:** G2 (page 15)

In this book: Scales: G♭ (35), E (37).

Low G · G2

Low register



Low G on the bassoon is the G written on the bottom line (G2 in octave numbers).

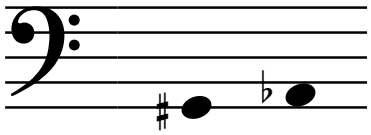
Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.

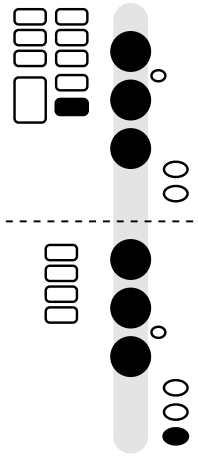
Half step below: F♯2 / G♭2 (page 15) · **Half step above:** G♯2 / A♭2 (page 16)

In this book: Songs: Happy Birthday (44), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (46), Good King Wenceslas (47), Away in a Manger (50), Auld Lang Syne (51), The First Noel (52), O Come, All Ye Faithful (54), Joy to the World (56), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (58), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (60), Silent Night (63), Yankee Doodle (65), America the Beautiful (67), Battle Hymn of the Republic (68), Anchors Aweigh (72). Scales: E♭ (32), F (33), G (35).

Low A♭ · G♯2 / A♭2

Low register

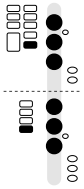




Low A♭ on the bassoon is the A♭ written in the first space (A♭2 in octave numbers). It is the same note as G♯, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky G♯ key. *Use the thumb A♭ key next to notes that need the right pinky, such as F or F♯.*

Alternate fingering



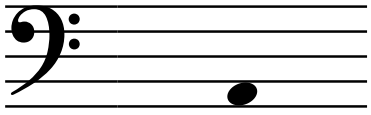
Right thumb A♭ key
Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb G♯ key, 1, 2, 3.

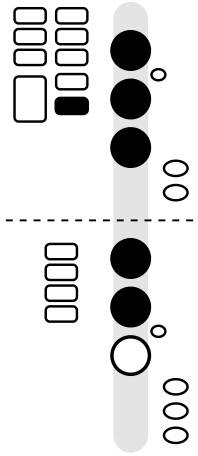
Half step below: G2 (page 15) · **Half step above:** A2 (page 16)

In this book: Scales: E♭ (32), A♭ (33), G♭ (35), E (37).

Low A · A2

Low register





Low A on the bassoon is the A written in the first space (A2 in octave numbers).

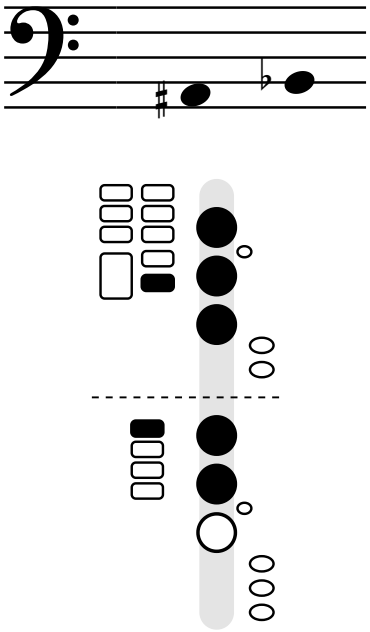
Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.

Half step below: G♯2 / A♭2 (page 16) · **Half step above:** A♯2 / B♭2 (page 17)

In this book: Songs: Happy Birthday (44), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (46), Good King Wenceslas (47), Away in a Manger (50), The First Noel (52), O Come, All Ye Faithful (54), Joy to the World (56), O Christmas Tree (57), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (58), Deck the Halls (59), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (60), Silent Night (63), Yankee Doodle (65), My Country, 'Tis of Thee (66), America the Beautiful (67), Battle Hymn of the Republic (68), The Star-Spangled Banner (70), Anchors Aweigh (72). Scales: F (33), G (35), A (36), E (37).

B♭ · A♯2 / B♭2

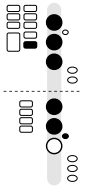
Low register



B♭ on the bassoon is written on the second line. It is the same note as A♯, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.

Alternate fingering



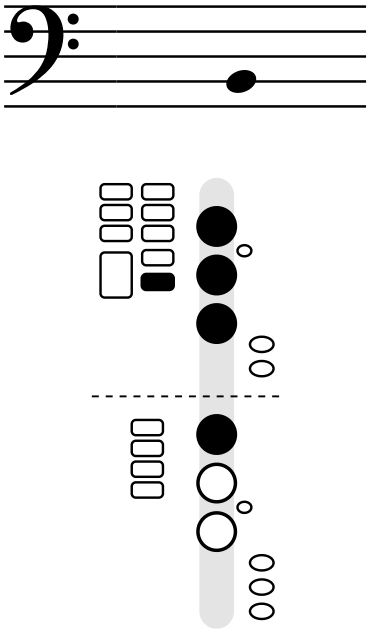
Right-hand B♭ finger key
Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, B♭ key.

Half step below: A2 (page 16) · **Half step above:** B2 (page 17)

In this book: Songs: every song except The Star-Spangled Banner (70). Scales: B♭ (32), E♭ (32), F (33), A♭ (33), G♭ (35). Chromatic scale (38).

B · B2

Low register



B on the bassoon is the B written on the second line (B2 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1.

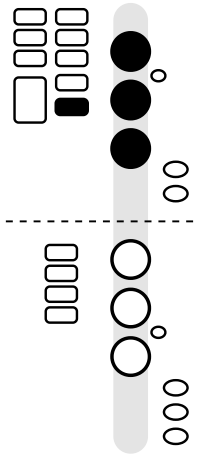
Half step below: A♯2 / B♭2 (page 17) · **Half step above:** C3 (page 18)

In this book: Songs: America the Beautiful (67), The Star-Spangled Banner (70), Anchors Aweigh (72). Scales: G (35), G♭ (35), A (36), B (37), E (37). Chromatic scale (38).

C · C3

Low register





C on the bassoon is the C written in the second space (C3 in octave numbers).

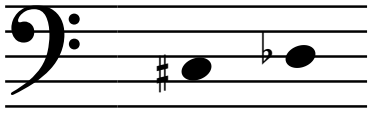
Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.

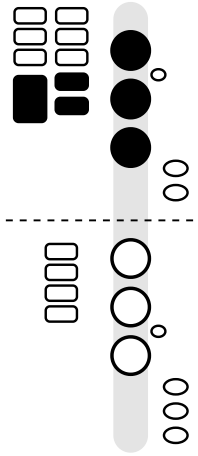
Half step below: B2 (page 17) · **Half step above:** C♯3 / D♭3 (page 18)

In this book: Songs: every song except The First Noel (52), Joy to the World (56), Taps (64). Scales: B♭ (32), E♭ (32), F (33), A♭ (33), C (34), G (35). Chromatic scale (38).

C♯ · C♯3 / D♭3

Low register





C♯ on the bassoon is written in the second space. It is the same note as D♭, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, thumb low D key, thumb C♯ key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down. *Left thumb presses the C♯ key while the whisper and low D keys stay down.*

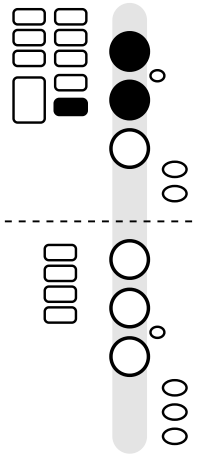
Half step below: C3 (page 18) · **Half step above:** D3 (page 19)

In this book: Scales: A♭ (33), D♭ (34), G♭ (35), A (36), B (37), E (37). Chromatic scale (38).

D · D3

Middle register





D on the bassoon is the D written on the middle line (D3 in octave numbers).

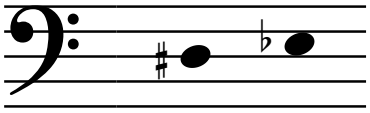
Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.

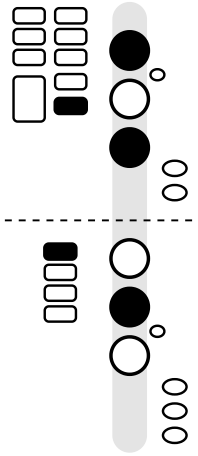
Half step below: C♯3 / D♭3 (page 18) · **Half step above:** D♯3 / E♭3 (page 19)

In this book: Songs: every song except The First Noel (52), Joy to the World (56). Scales: B♭ (32), E♭ (32), F (33), C (34), G (35), D (36), A (36). Chromatic scale (38).

E♭ · D♯3 / E♭3

Middle register

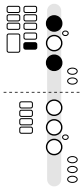




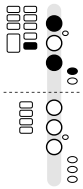
E♭ on the bassoon is written in the third space. It is the same note as D♯, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2. *Leave the second left-hand hole open. The right thumb B♭ key and R2 steady held notes; drop them in fast passages.*

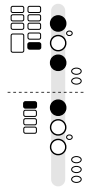
Alternate fingerings



Fast passages (plain fingering)
Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3.
Right hand: nothing down.



Plain fingering with left pinky E♭
Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3, pinky E♭ key.
Right hand: nothing down.



B♭ thumb and right first finger (pinky E♭ optional)
Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3.
Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1.

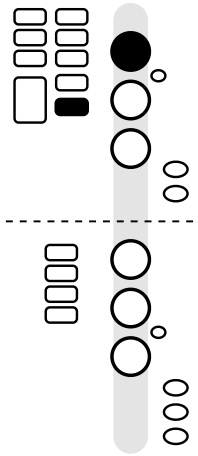
Half step below: D3 (page 19) · **Half step above:** E3 (page 20)

In this book: Songs: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (41), Ode to Joy (42), Jingle Bells (43), Happy Birthday (44), When the Saints Go Marching In (45), Good King Wenceslas (47), Up on the Housetop (48), Away in a Manger (50), O Come, All Ye Faithful (54), O Christmas Tree (57), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (58), Deck the Halls (59), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (60), Angels We Have Heard on High (62), Yankee Doodle (65), My Country, 'Tis of Thee (66). Scales: B♭ (32), E♭ (32), A♭ (33), D♭ (34), G♭ (35), B (37), E (37). Chromatic scale (38).

E · E3

Middle register





E on the bassoon is the E written in the third space (E3 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, 1. Right hand: nothing down.

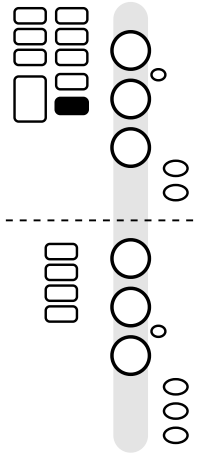
Half step below: D♯3 / E♭3 (page 19) · **Half step above:** F3 (page 20)

In this book: Songs: Deck the Halls (59), Silent Night (63), The Star-Spangled Banner (70), Anchors Aweigh (72). Scales: F (33), C (34), G (35), D (36), A (36), B (37), E (37). Chromatic scale (38).

F · F3

Middle register





F on the bassoon is the F written on the fourth line (F3 in octave numbers).

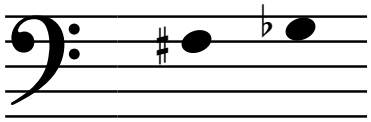
Fingering: Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down. *Only the whisper key is held; all holes are open.*

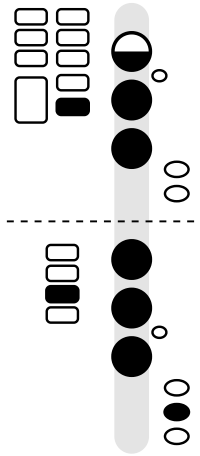
Half step below: E3 (page 20) · **Half step above:** F♯3 / G♭3 (page 21)

In this book: Songs: every song except Hot Cross Buns (39), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (46), The First Noel (52), Joy to the World (56), Yankee Doodle (65), America the Beautiful (67), Battle Hymn of the Republic (68). Scales: B♭ (32), F (33), A♭ (33), C (34), D♭ (34), G♭ (35). Chromatic scale (38).

F♯ · F♯3 / G♭3

Middle register

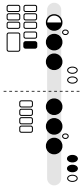




F♯ on the bassoon is written on the fourth line. It is the same note as G♭, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb F♯ key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key. *Half-hole: leave a little more than half of the first hole open. Use the pinky F♯ version next to notes that need the right thumb.*

Alternate fingering



Right pinky F♯ key
Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F♯ key, pinky F key.

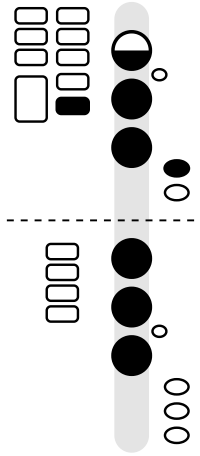
Half step below: F3 (page 20) · **Half step above:** G3 (page 21)

In this book: Scales: D♭ (34), G (35), G♭ (35), D (36), A (36), B (37). Chromatic scale (38).

G · G3

Middle register





G on the bassoon is the G written in the top space (G3 in octave numbers).

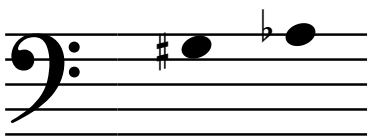
Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3. *Half-hole: cover about half of the first hole.*

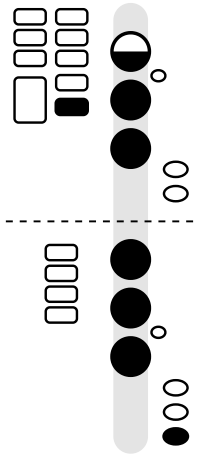
Half step below: F♯3 / G♭3 (page 21) · **Half step above:** G♯3 / A♭3 (page 22)

In this book: Songs: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (41), Up on the Housetop (48), Auld Lang Syne (51), O Christmas Tree (57), Deck the Halls (59), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (60), Angels We Have Heard on High (62), Silent Night (63), My Country, 'Tis of Thee (66), The Star-Spangled Banner (70), Anchors Aweigh (72). Scales: B♭ (32), A♭ (33), C (34), G (35), D (36). Chromatic scale (38).

A♭ · G♯3 / A♭3

Middle register

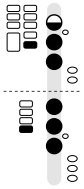




A♭ on the bassoon is the A♭ written on the top line (A♭3 in octave numbers). It is the same note as G♯, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky G♯ key. *Half-hole: cover a little more than half of the first hole. Use the thumb A♭ version next to notes that need the right pinky.*

Alternate fingering



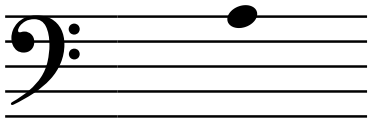
Right thumb A♭ key
Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb G♯ key, 1, 2, 3.

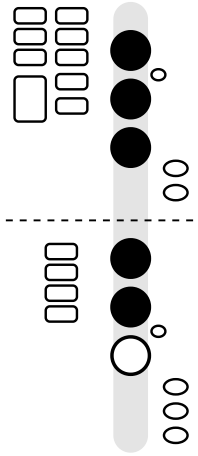
Half step below: G3 (page 21) · **Half step above:** A3 (page 22)

In this book: Scales: A♭ (33), D♭ (34), A (36), B (37). Chromatic scale (38).

A · A3

Middle register

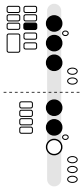




A on the bassoon is the A written on the top line (A3 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2. *Let go of the whisper key from A3 up to F♯4; it comes back for G4 and G♯4.*

Alternate fingering



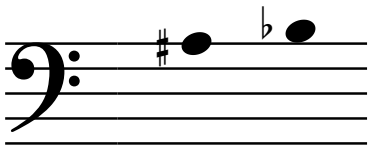
Flick: tap the high A key as the note starts
Left hand: high A flick key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.

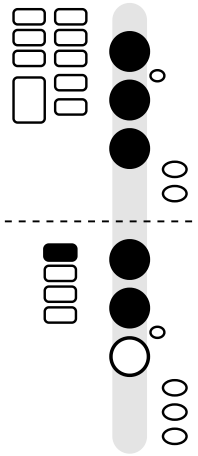
Half step below: G♯3 / A♭3 (page 22) · **Half step above:** A♯3 / B♭3 (page 23)

In this book: Songs: Deck the Halls (59), Silent Night (63), The Star-Spangled Banner (70), Anchors Aweigh (72). Scales: B♭ (32), C (34), D (36), A (36). Chromatic scale (38).

High B♭ · A♯3 / B♭3

Middle register

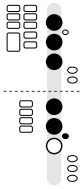




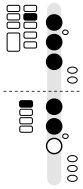
High B♭ on the bassoon is the B♭ written just above the staff (B♭3 in octave numbers). It is the same note as A♯, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.

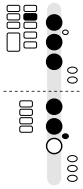
Alternate fingerings



Right-hand B♭ finger key
Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, B♭ key.



Flick: tap the high C key as the note starts
Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.



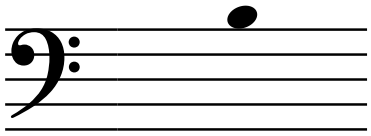
High C flick with the right-hand B♭ key
Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, B♭ key.

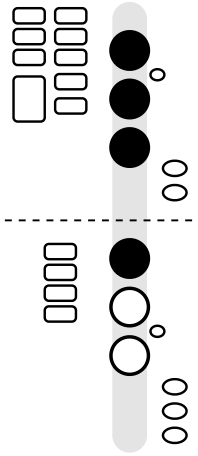
Half step below: A3 (page 22) · **Half step above:** B3 (page 23)

In this book: Songs: Deck the Halls (59), Silent Night (63), The Star-Spangled Banner (70). Scales: B♭ (32), D♭ (34), B (37). Chromatic scale (38).

High B · B3

Middle register

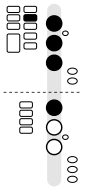




High B on the bassoon is the B written just above the staff (B3 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1.

Alternate fingering



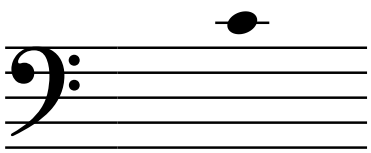
Flick: tap the high C key as the note starts
Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1.

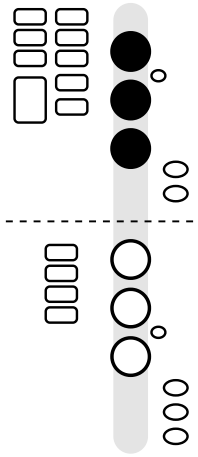
Half step below: A♯3 / B♭3 (page 23) · **Half step above:** C4 (page 24)

In this book: Scales: C (34), D (36), B (37).

High C · C4

Middle register

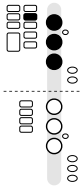




High C on the bassoon is the C written on the first ledger line above the staff (C4 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.

Alternate fingering



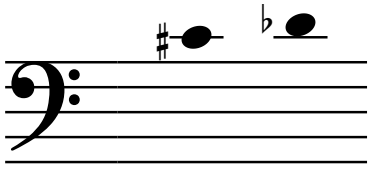
Flick: tap the high C key as the note starts
Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.

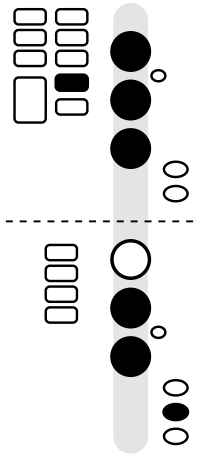
Half step below: B3 (page 23) · **Half step above:** C♯4 / D♭4 (page 24)

In this book: Songs: The Star-Spangled Banner (70). Scales: C (34), D♭ (34).

High C♯ · C♯4 / D♭4

Middle register

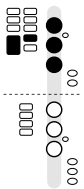




High C♯ on the bassoon is the C♯ written on the first ledger line above the staff (C♯4 in octave numbers). It is the same note as D♭, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: thumb C♯ key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 2, 3, pinky F key. *Left thumb on the C♯ key, no whisper key. R2, R3 and the pinky F key steady the note.*

Alternate fingering



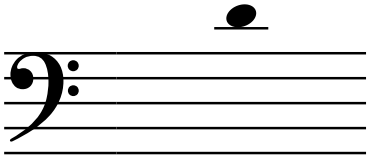
Fast passages (with low D key)
Left hand: thumb low D key, thumb C♯ key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.

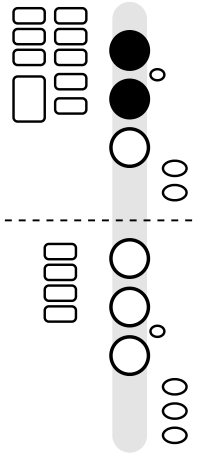
Half step below: C4 (page 24) · **Half step above:** D4 (page 25)

In this book: Scales: D♭ (34), D (36).

High D · D4

Middle register

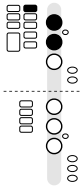




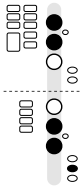
High D on the bassoon is the D written just above the first ledger line above the staff (D4 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Left hand: 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.

Alternate fingerings



Flick: tap the high D key as the note starts
Left hand: high D flick key, 1, 2.
Right hand: nothing down.



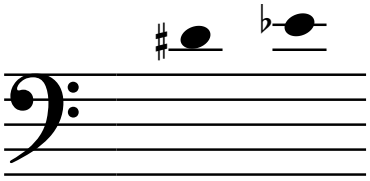
Add R2, R3 and pinky F
Left hand: 1, 2. Right hand: 2, 3, pinky F key.

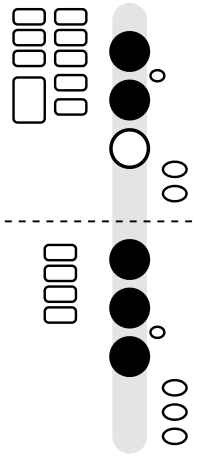
Half step below: C♯4 / D♭4 (page 24) · **Half step above:** D♯4 / E♭4 (page 25)

In this book: Scales: D (36).

High E♭ · D♯4 / E♭4

Middle register

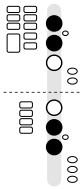




High E♭ on the bassoon is the E♭ written on the second ledger line above the staff (E♭4 in octave numbers). It is the same note as D♯, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: 1, 2. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.

Alternate fingering



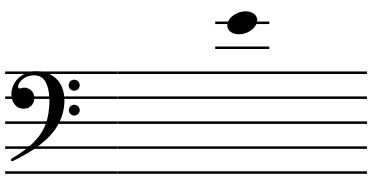
Without right first finger
Left hand: 1, 2. Right hand: 2, 3.

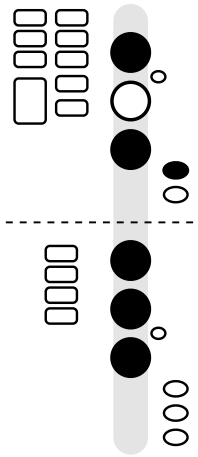
Half step below: D4 (page 25) · **Half step above:** E4 (page 26)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 8.

High E · E4

Middle register





High E on the bassoon is the E written on the second ledger line above the staff (E4 in octave numbers).

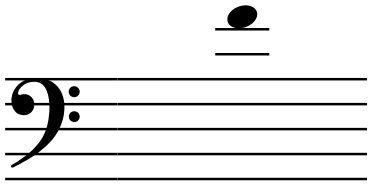
Fingering: Left hand: 1, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.

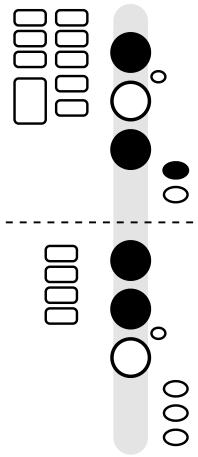
Half step below: D♯4 / E♭4 (page 25) · **Half step above:** F4 (page 26)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 9.

High F · F4

Middle register





High F on the bassoon is the F written just above the second ledger line above the staff (F4 in octave numbers).

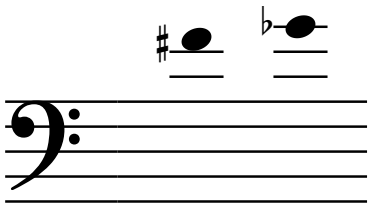
Fingering: Left hand: 1, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2.

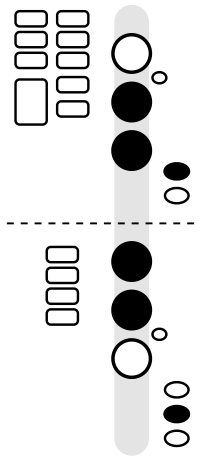
Half step below: E4 (page 26) · **Half step above:** F♯4 / G♭4 (page 27)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 9.

High F♯ · F♯4 / G♭4

Middle register

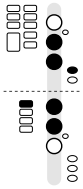




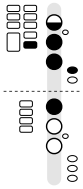
High F♯ on the bassoon is the F♯ written just above the second ledger line above the staff (F♯4 in octave numbers). It is the same note as G♭, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, pinky F key. *The first left-hand hole stays open.*

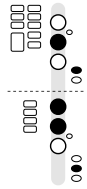
Alternate fingerings



B♭ thumb instead of F
Left hand: 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.



Half-hole first finger, whisper key
Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1.



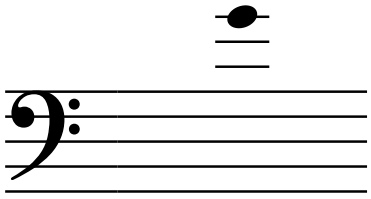
Left third finger up
Left hand: 2, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, pinky F key.

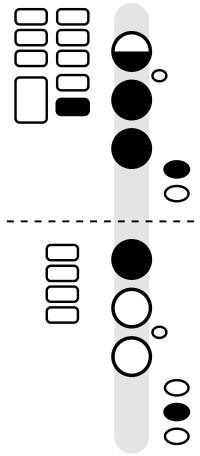
Half step below: F4 (page 26) · **Half step above:** G4 (page 27)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 9.

High G · G4

Middle register





High G on the bassoon is the G written on the third ledger line above the staff (G4 in octave numbers).

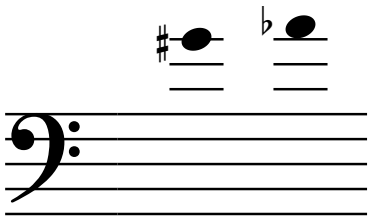
Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, pinky F key. *Half-hole and whisper key come back for this note.*

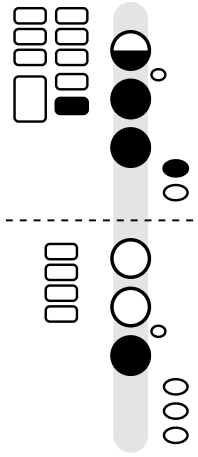
Half step below: F♯4 / G♭4 (page 27) · **Half step above:** G♯4 / A♭4 (page 28)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 9.

High A♭ · G♯4 / A♭4

High register





High A♭ on the bassoon is the A♭ written just above the third ledger line above the staff (A♭4 in octave numbers). It is the same note as G♯, so the same fingering works for both.

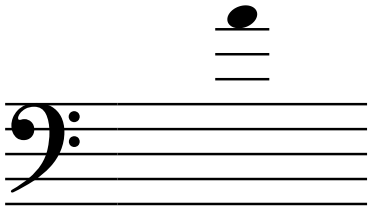
Fingering: Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 3. *Half-hole: cover a little more than half of the first hole.*

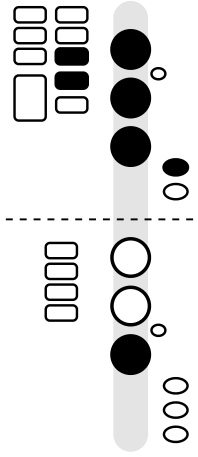
Half step below: G4 (page 27) · **Half step above:** A4 (page 28)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 9.

High A · A4

High register





High A on the bassoon is the A written just above the third ledger line above the staff (A4 in octave numbers).

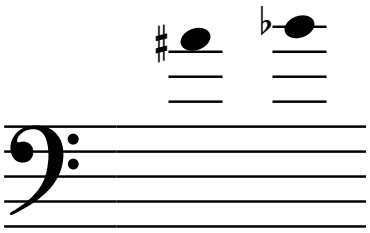
Fingering: Left hand: high A flick key, thumb C♯ key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 3. *Hold the high A key down with the C♯ key.*

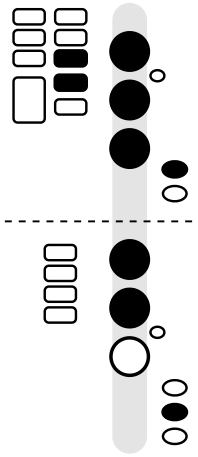
Half step below: G♯4 / A♭4 (page 28) · **Half step above:** A♯4 / B♭4 (page 29)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 9.

Very high B♭ · A♯4 / B♭4

High register





Very high B♭ on the bassoon is the B♭ written on the fourth ledger line above the staff (B♭4 in octave numbers). It is the same note as A♯, so the same fingering works for both.

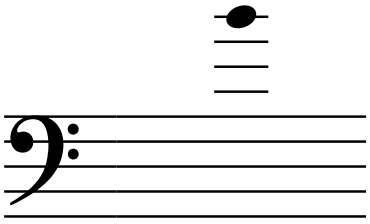
Fingering: Left hand: high A flick key, thumb C♯ key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, pinky F key.

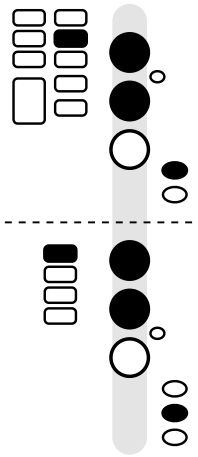
Half step below: A4 (page 28) · **Half step above:** B4 (page 29)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 9.

Very high B · B4

High register

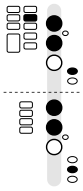




Very high B on the bassoon is the B written on the fourth ledger line above the staff (B4 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 2, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2, pinky F key. *Hold the high C key down.*

Alternate fingering



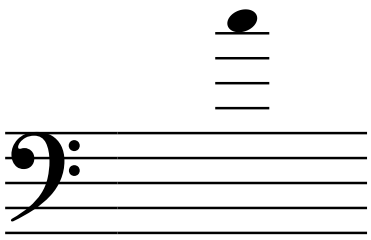
Without B♭ thumb
Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 2, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, pinky F key.

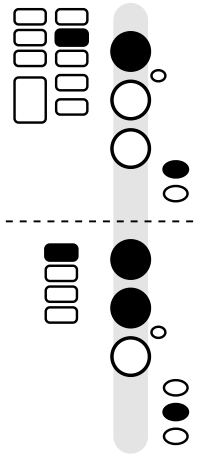
Half step below: A♯4 / B♭4 (page 29) · **Half step above:** C5 (page 30)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 9.

Very high C · C5

High register

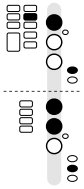




Very high C on the bassoon is the C written just above the fourth ledger line above the staff (C5 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Left hand: high C flick key, 1, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2, pinky F key.

Alternate fingering



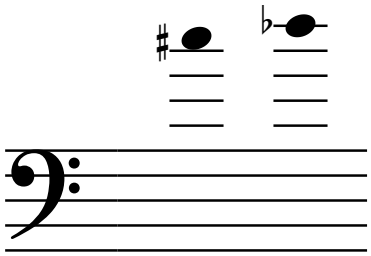
Without B♭ thumb
Left hand: high C flick key, 1, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, pinky F key.

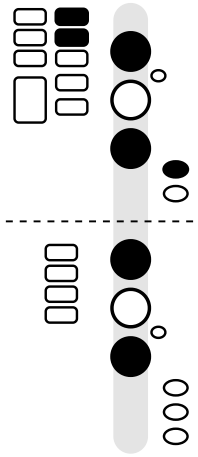
Half step below: B4 (page 29) · **Half step above:** C♯5 / D♭5 (page 30)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 10.

Very high C♯ · C♯5 / D♭5

High register

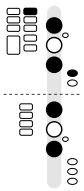




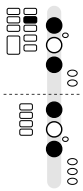
Very high C♯ on the bassoon is the C♯ written just above the fourth ledger line above the staff (C♯5 in octave numbers). It is the same note as D♭, so the same fingering works for both.

Fingering: Left hand: high D flick key, high C flick key, 1, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 3.

Alternate fingerings



High D key only
Left hand: high D flick key, 1, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 3.



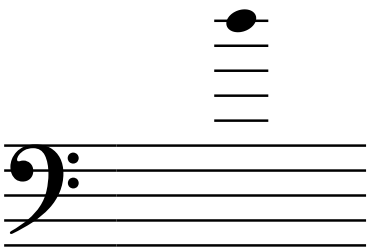
High C key only (no high D key)
Left hand: high C flick key, 1, 3. Right hand: 1, 3.

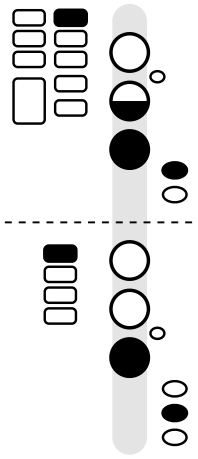
Half step below: C5 (page 30) · **Half step above:** D5 (page 31)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 10.

Very high D · D5

High register

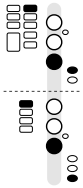




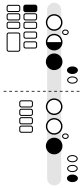
Very high D on the bassoon is the D written on the fifth ledger line above the staff (D5 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Left hand: high D flick key, half-hole 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 3, pinky F key. *Half-hole the second left-hand hole, not the first.*

Alternate fingerings



Second hole open, A♭ pinky
Left hand: high D flick key, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 3, pinky G♯ key.



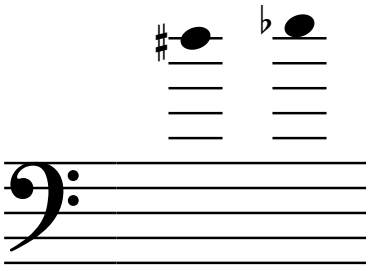
Half-hole 2 with pinky A♭, no B♭ thumb
Left hand: high D flick key, half-hole 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 3, pinky G♯ key.

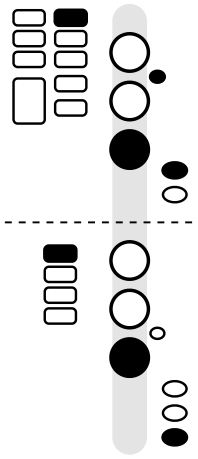
Half step below: C♯5 / D♭5 (page 30) · **Half step above:** D♯5 / E♭5 (page 31)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 10.

Very high E♭ · D♯5 / E♭5

High register

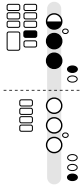




The highest note on this chart is E♭, written just above the fifth ledger line above the staff. Advanced players can sometimes go higher, but notes above this vary a lot from player to player and instrument to instrument.

Fingering: Left hand: high D flick key, small E♭ key, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 3, pinky G♯ key. *The left first finger presses the small high E♭ key instead of its hole.*

Alternate fingering



Half-hole with C♯ thumb
Left hand: thumb C♯ key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: pinky G♯ key.

Half step below: D5 (page 31)
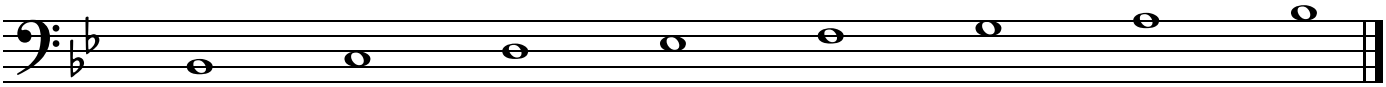
In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 10.

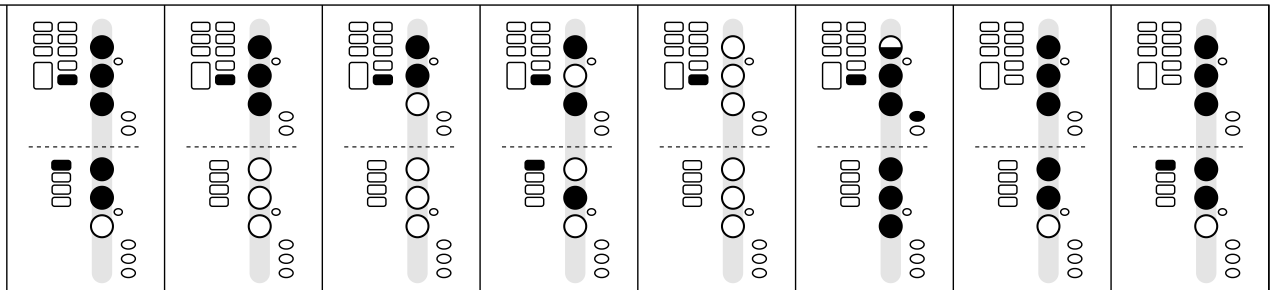
The 12 Major Scales

Each scale is shown in the octave that sits most comfortably on the instrument. They are in the order school bands usually learn them. Bassoon reads at concert pitch, so each scale has the name your director uses.

B♭ major

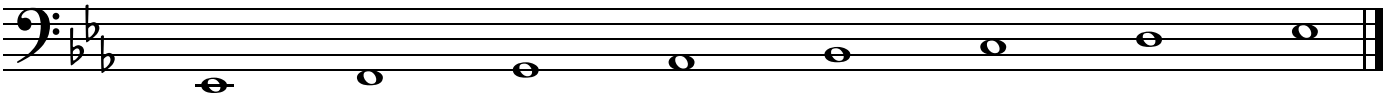
When the band plays concert B♭, you play B♭ major (2 flats in the key signature).

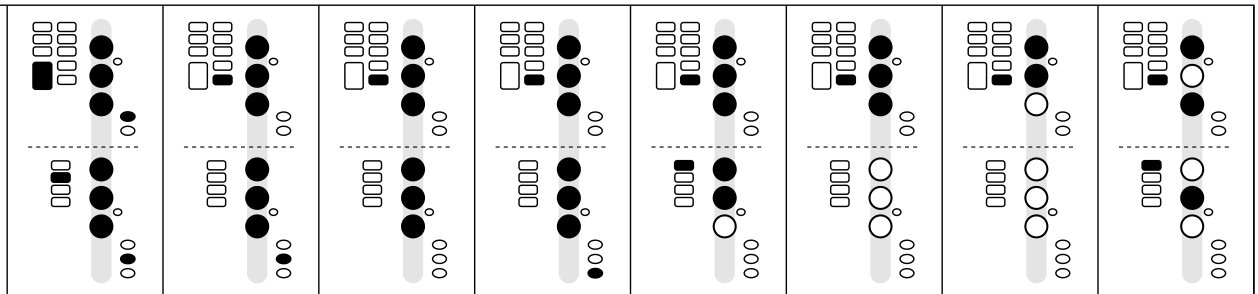


KEYS								
NOTE	B♭2	C3	D3	E♭3	F3	G3	A3	B♭3

E♭ major
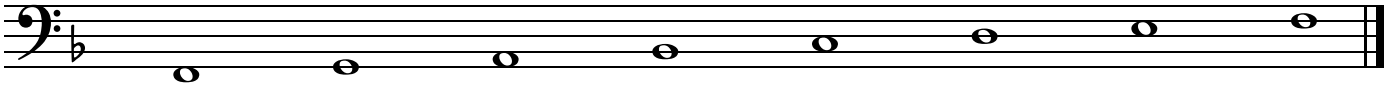
When the band plays concert E♭, you play E♭ major (3 flats in the key signature).

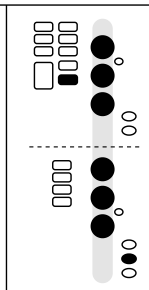
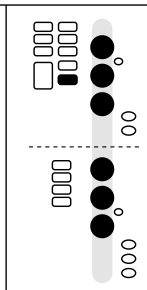
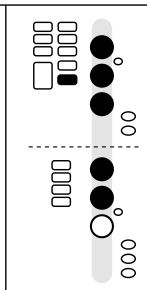
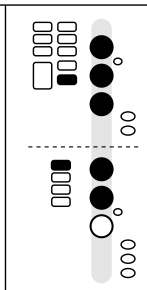
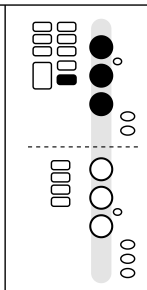
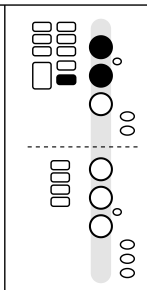
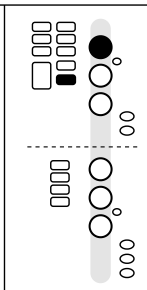
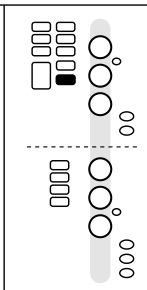


KEYS								
NOTE	E♭2	F2	G2	A♭2	B♭2	C3	D3	E♭3

F major

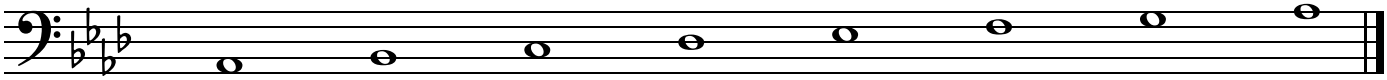
When the band plays concert F, you play F major (1 flat in the key signature).

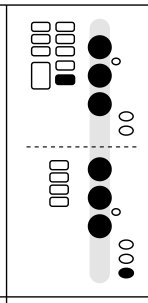
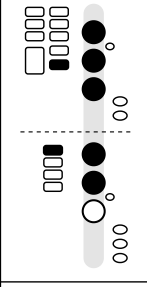
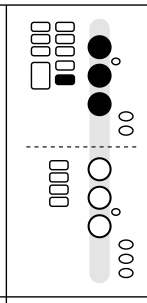
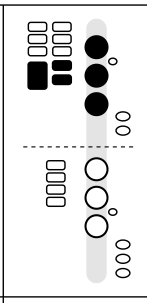
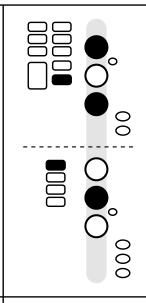
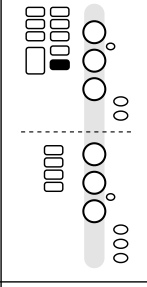
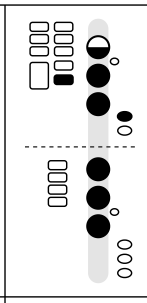
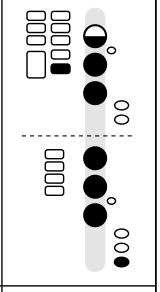


KEYS								
NOTE	F2	G2	A2	B♭2	C3	D3	E3	F3

A♭ major

When the band plays concert A♭, you play A♭ major (4 flats in the key signature).



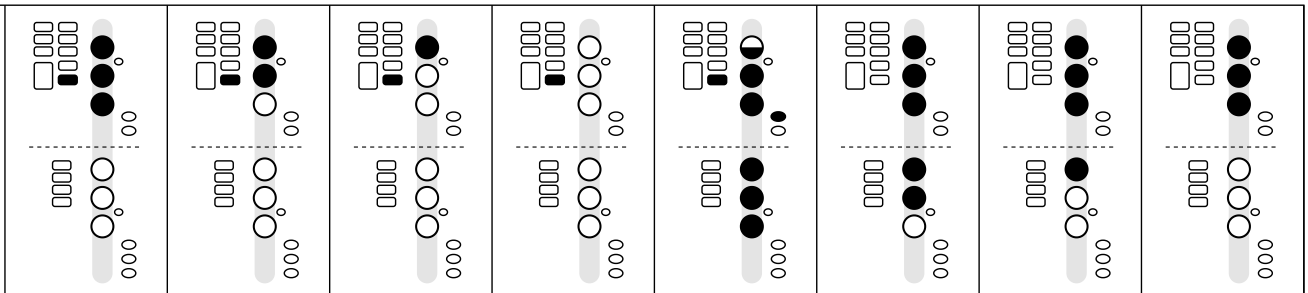
KEYS								
NOTE	A♭2	B♭2	C3	D♭3	E♭3	F3	G3	A♭3

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C major

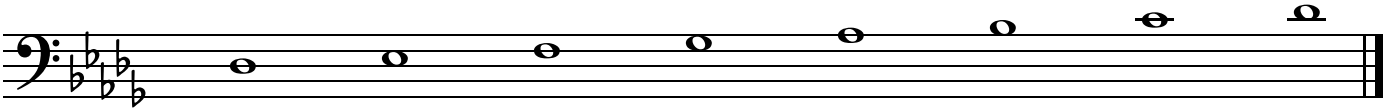
When the band plays concert C, you play C major (no sharps or flats in the key signature).

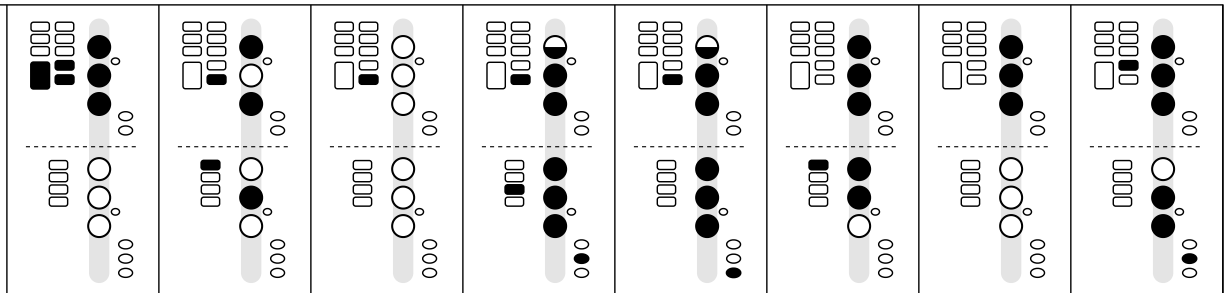


KEYS								
NOTE	C3	D3	E3	F3	G3	A3	B3	C4

D♭ major

When the band plays concert D♭, you play D♭ major (5 flats in the key signature).

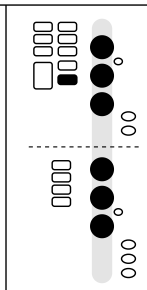
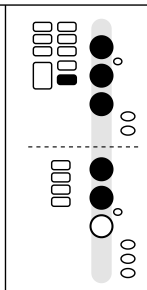
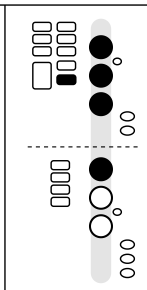
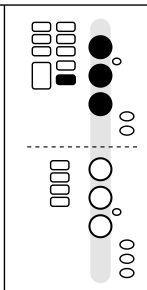
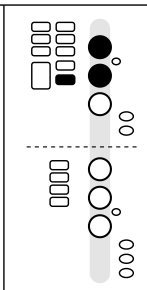
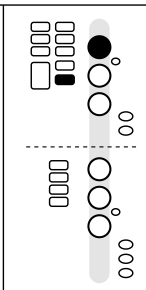
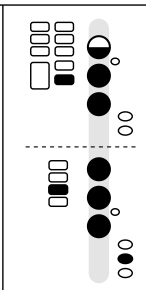
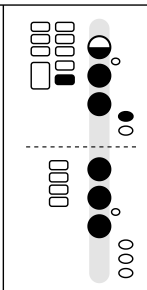


KEYS								
NOTE	D♭3	E♭3	F3	G♭3	A♭3	B♭3	C4	D♭4

G major

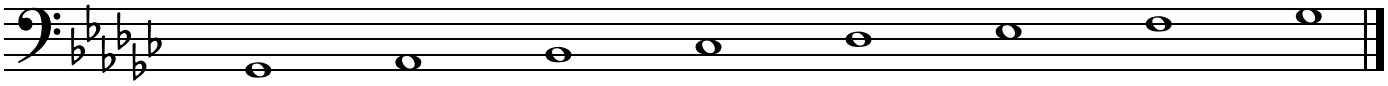
When the band plays concert G, you play G major (1 sharp in the key signature).

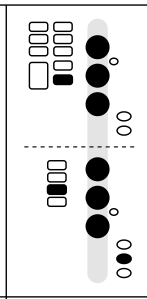
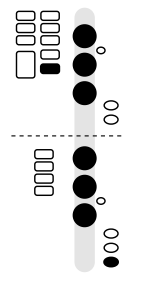
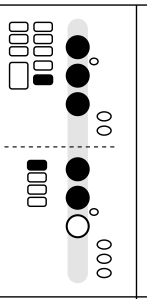
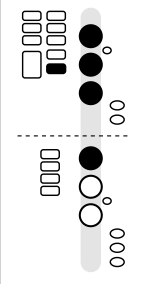
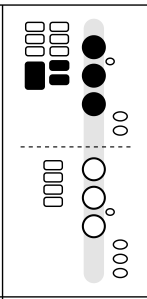
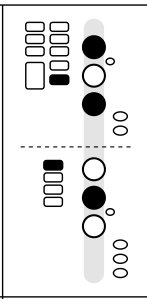
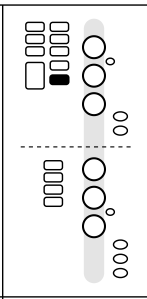
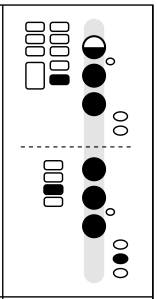


KEYS								
NOTE	G2	A2	B2	C3	D3	E3	F♯3	G3

G♭ major

When the band plays concert G♭, you play G♭ major (6 flats in the key signature).

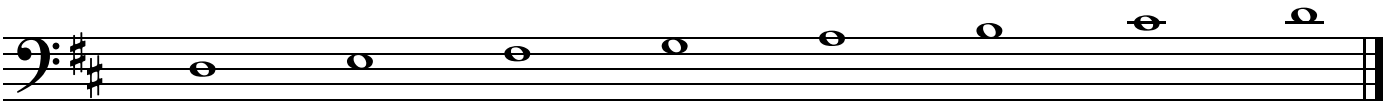


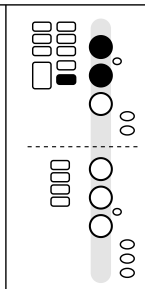
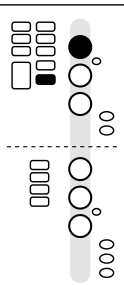
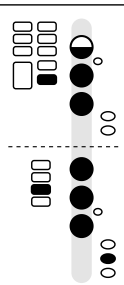
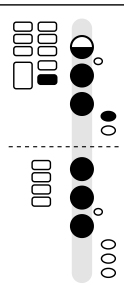
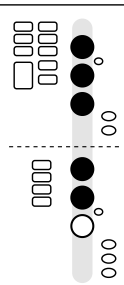
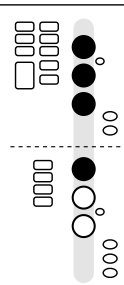
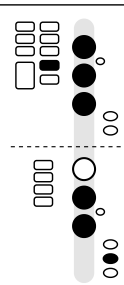
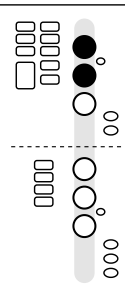
KEYS								
NOTE	G♭2	A♭2	B♭2	C♭3	D♭3	E♭3	F3	G♭3

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D major
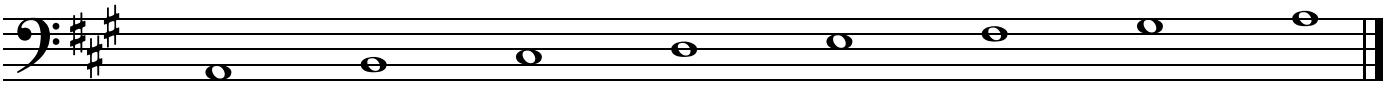
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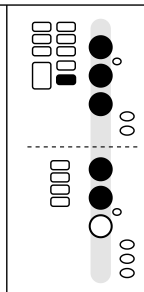
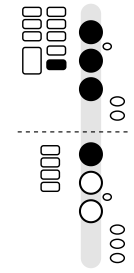
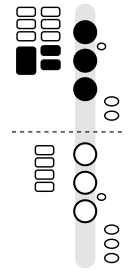
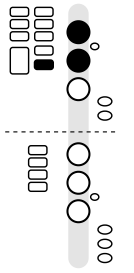
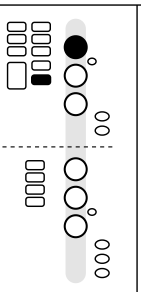
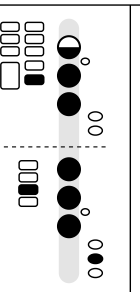
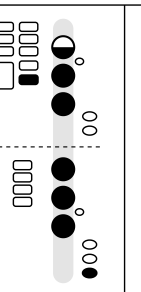
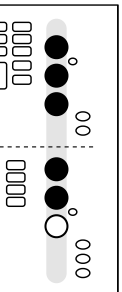


KEYS								
NOTE	D3	E3	F♯3	G3	A3	B3	C♯4	D4

A major

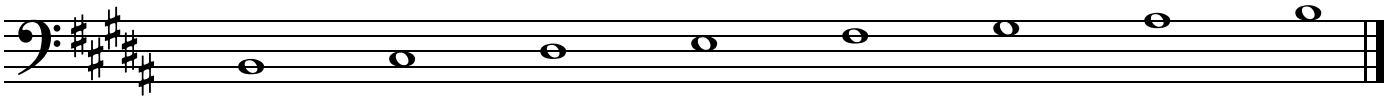
When the band plays concert A, you play A major (3 sharps in the key signature).

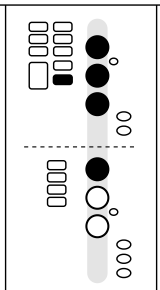
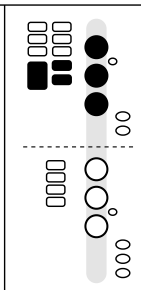
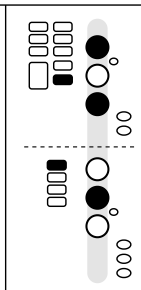
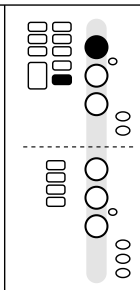
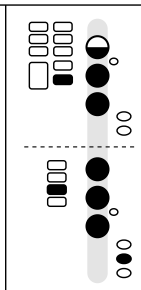
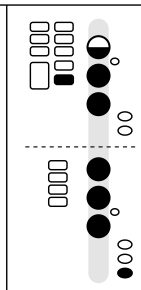
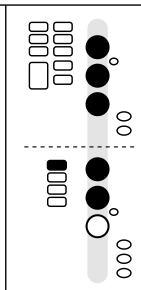
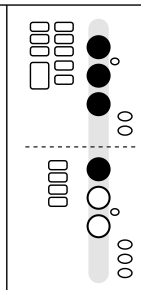


KEYS								
NOTE	A2	B2	C♯3	D3	E3	F♯3	G♯3	A3

B major

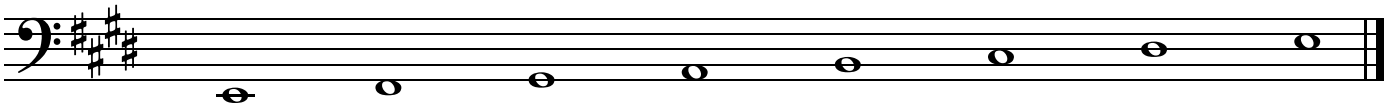
When the band plays concert B, you play B major (5 sharps in the key signature).

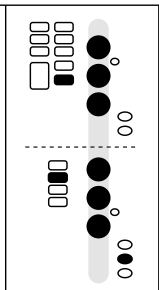
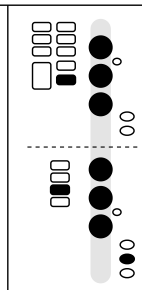
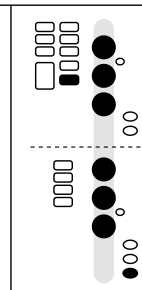
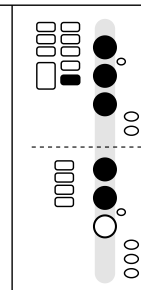
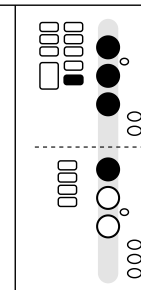
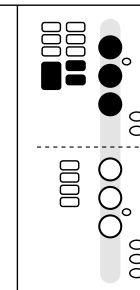
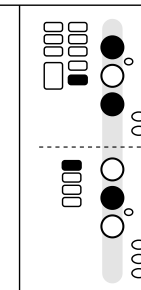
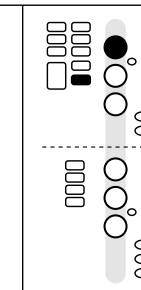


KEYS								
NOTE	B2	C♯3	D♯3	E3	F♯3	G♯3	A♯3	B3

E major

When the band plays concert E, you play E major (4 sharps in the key signature).

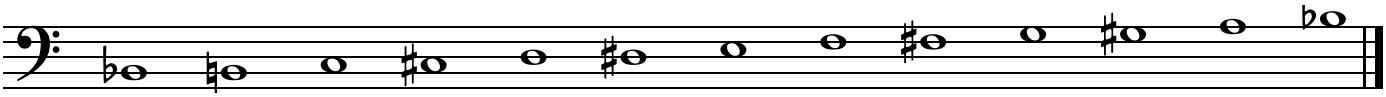


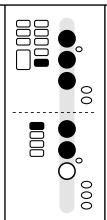
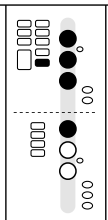
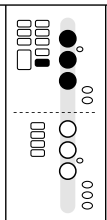
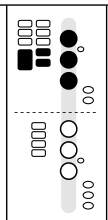
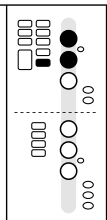
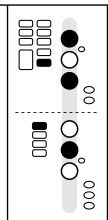
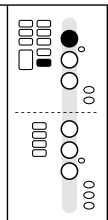
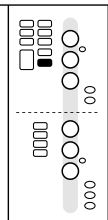
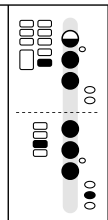
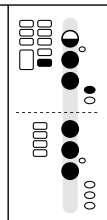
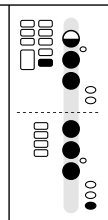
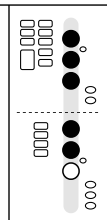
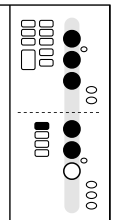
KEYS								
NOTE	E2	F♯2	G♯2	A2	B2	C♯3	D♯3	E3

Free at thefingeringchart.com

The Chromatic Scale

All twelve notes from B♭2 up to the next B♭, one half step at a time. Going up, the in-between notes are written as sharps; coming down they are usually written as flats (A♯ going up is the same note and fingering as B♭ coming down).



KEYS													
NOTE	B♭2	B2	C3	C♯3	D3	D♯3	E3	F3	F♯3	G3	G♯3	A3	B♭3

How to Practice a Scale

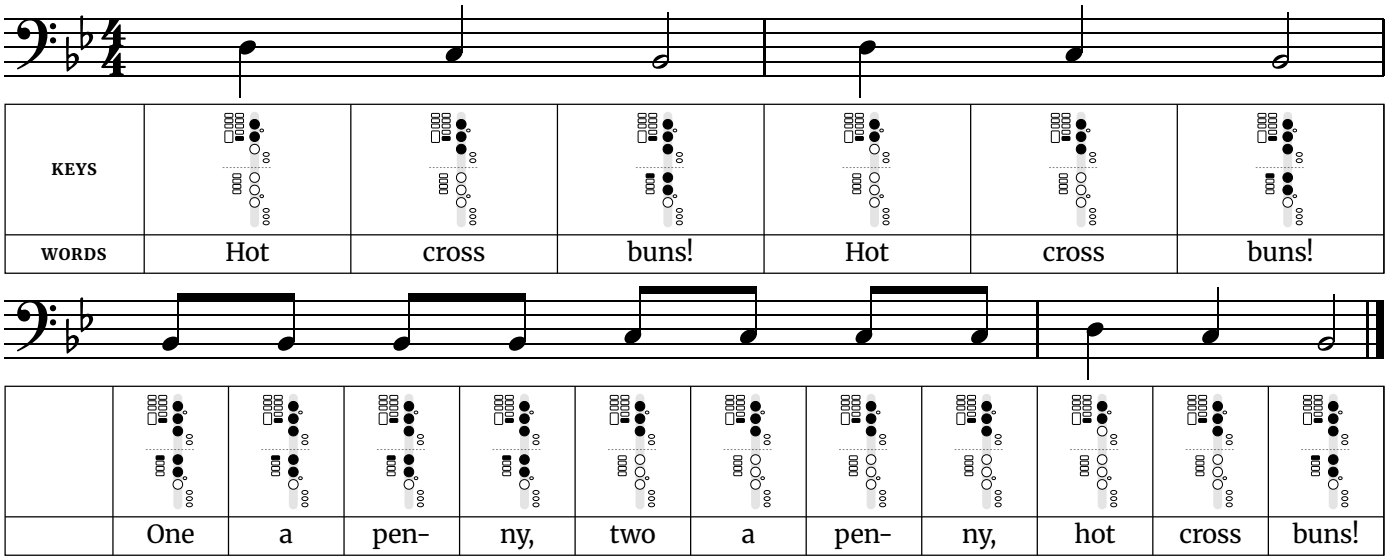
Play it slowly enough that every note is correct the first time, with a metronome. Tongue each note, then slur the whole octave in one breath. Raise the tempo only after three clean runs in a row.

Which Scales First

Start with concert B♭ major, then E♭ major and F major. Bassoon reads concert pitch, so the names match the rest of the band. One bassoon tip: in B♭ and F major, play the scale slowly and watch the whisper key. The switch from G♯ or G up to A, where the thumb comes off W, is where most scale runs break.

Hot Cross Buns

Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time. A three-note song most band and recorder books start with.



Fingerings used in this song
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.

Tip: The widest jump is a major third, from B♭2 to D3. Every phrase walks down three notes and back. Use it to get clean finger changes between neighboring notes before you worry about speed.

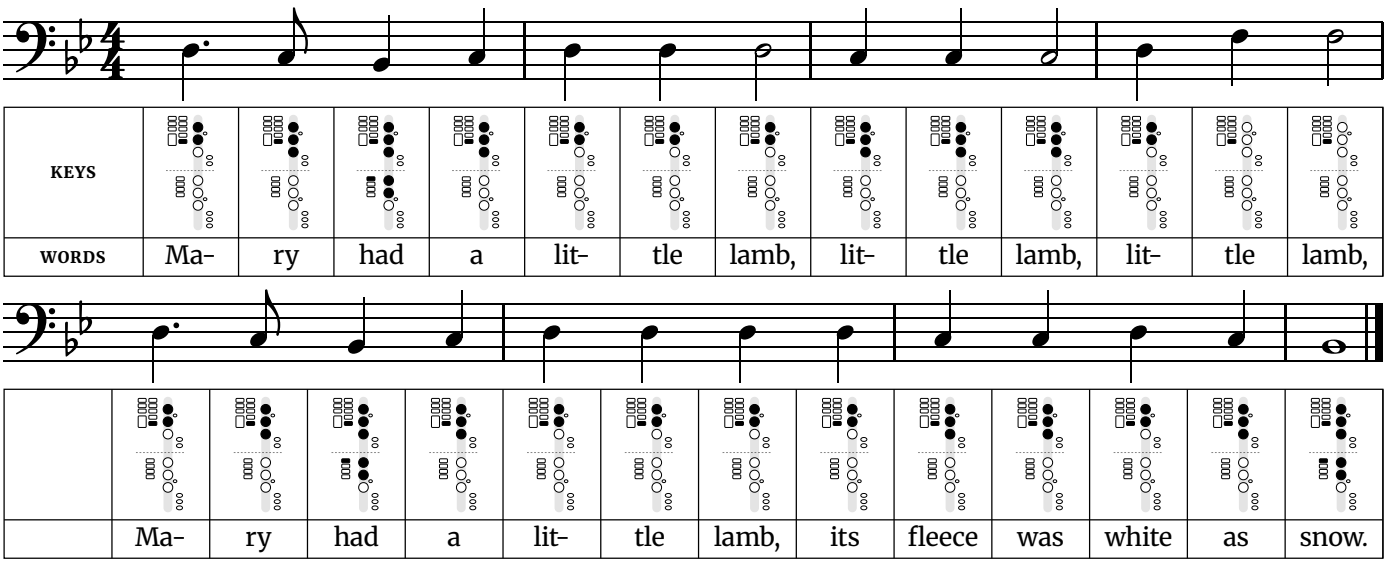
Hardest finger change: Going from B♭2 (cover or press: whisper key, left first finger, left second finger, left third finger, right thumb B♭ key, right first finger and right second finger) to D3 (cover or press: whisper key, left first finger and left second finger), 4 keys or holes change. Move all the fingers together, and keep them close to the instrument so nothing has far to travel. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Traditional English street cry; the words were printed in 1767.

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time. Uses four notes next to each other, plus one jump up.



Fingerings used in this song
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
F3 – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.

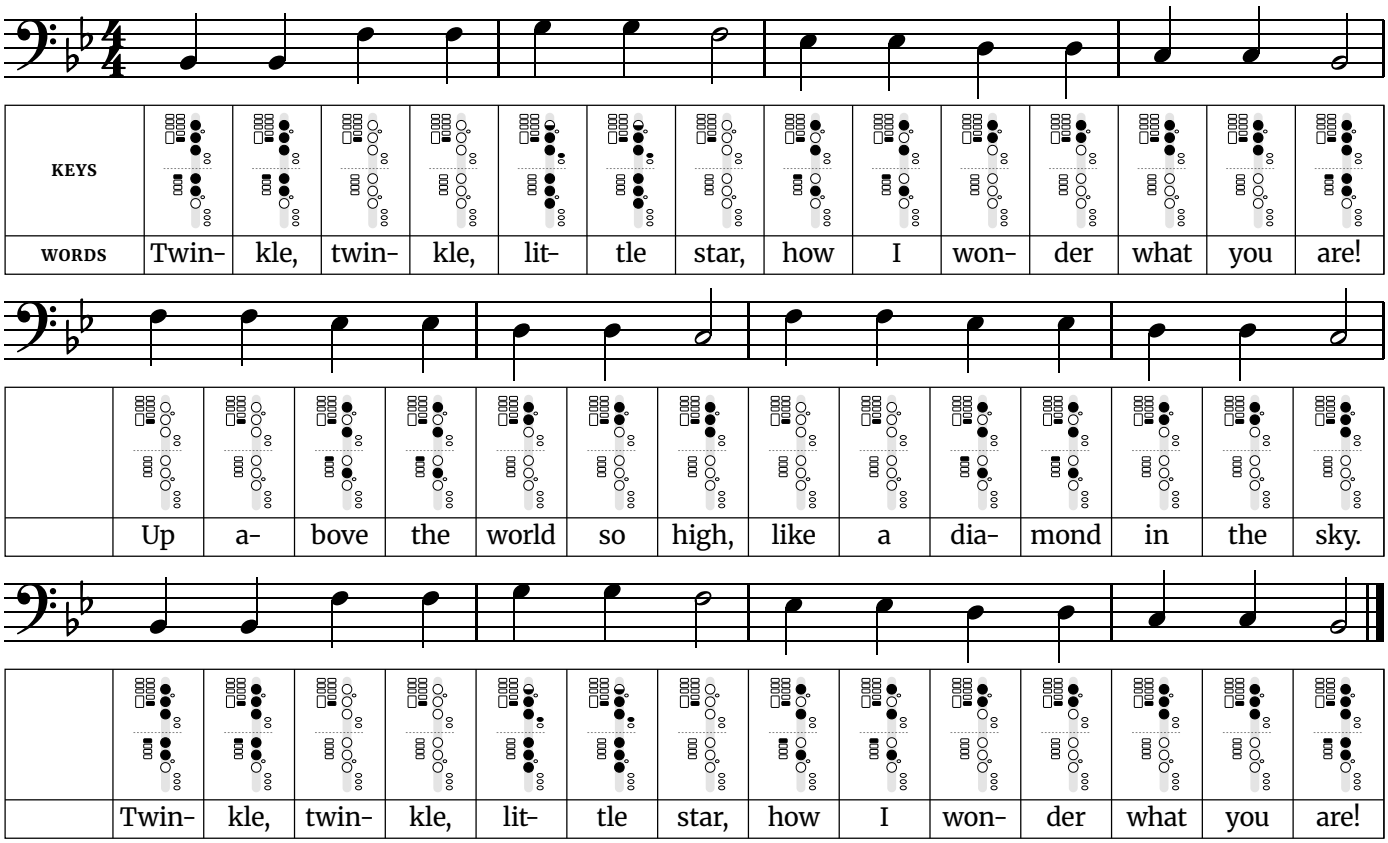
Tip: The widest jump is a minor third, from F3 to D3. The tune adds one note to Hot Cross Buns and repeats a single pitch several times. Keep the repeated notes even, tonguing each one without stopping the air.

Hardest finger change: Going from C3 (cover or press: whisper key, left first finger, left second finger and left third finger) to B♭2 (cover or press: whisper key, left first finger, left second finger, left third finger, right thumb B♭ key, right first finger and right second finger), 3 keys or holes change. Move all the fingers together, and keep them close to the instrument so nothing has far to travel. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Words: Sarah Josepha Hale (1830). Music: traditional American.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time. Six notes of the major scale, with a leap from the first note to the fifth.



Fingerings used in this song
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
E♭3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
F3 – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
G3 – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.

Tip: The widest jump is a fifth, from B♭2 to F3. The opening jump is a fifth, the first real leap in this set of songs. Hear the second note in your head before you play it, then come down the scale one step at a time.

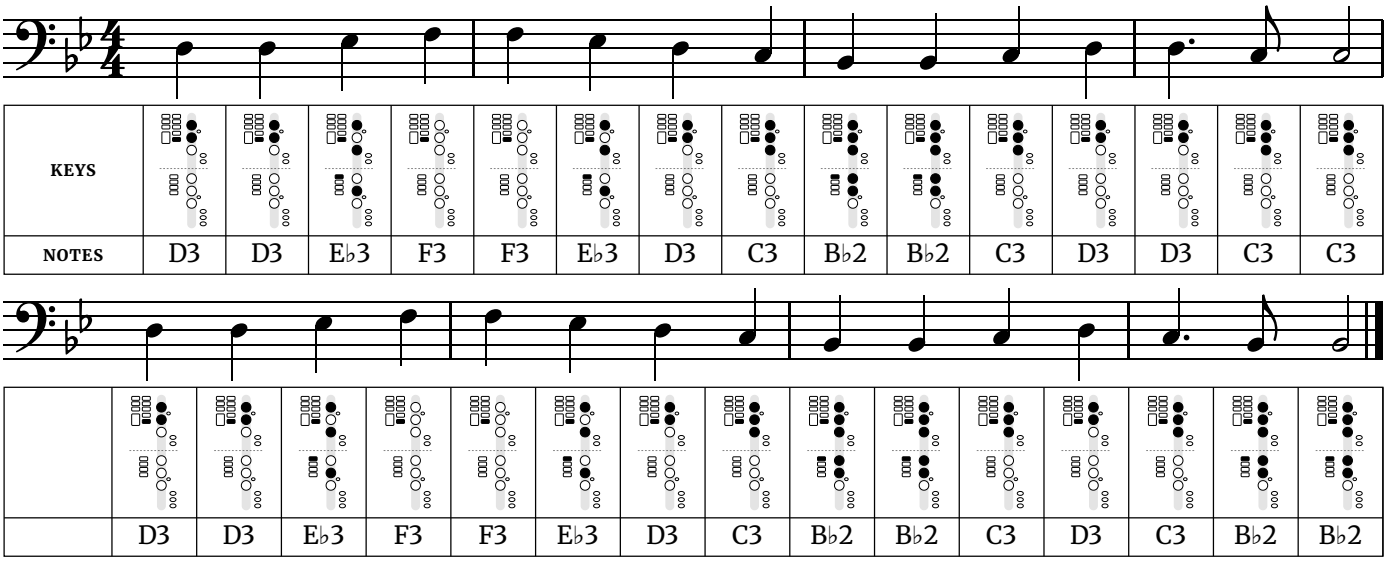
Hardest finger change: Going from F3 (cover or press: whisper key) to G3 (cover or press: whisper key, left first finger half-holed (roll it down toward the second finger to uncover the top part of the hole), left second finger, left third finger, left pinky E♭ key, right first finger, right second finger and right third finger), 8 keys or holes change. Move all the fingers together, and keep them close to the instrument so nothing has far to travel. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Words: Jane Taylor (1806). Music: the French song "Ah! vous dirai-je, maman" (1761).

Easy Songs

Ode to Joy

Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time. Beethoven's melody from the Ninth Symphony, using the first five notes of the scale.



Fingerings used in this song
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
E♭3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
F3 – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.

Tip: The widest jump is a whole step, from F3 to E♭3. Almost the whole melody moves by step, which makes it a good test of even fingers. Watch the rhythm at the end of each phrase, where one note is held longer.

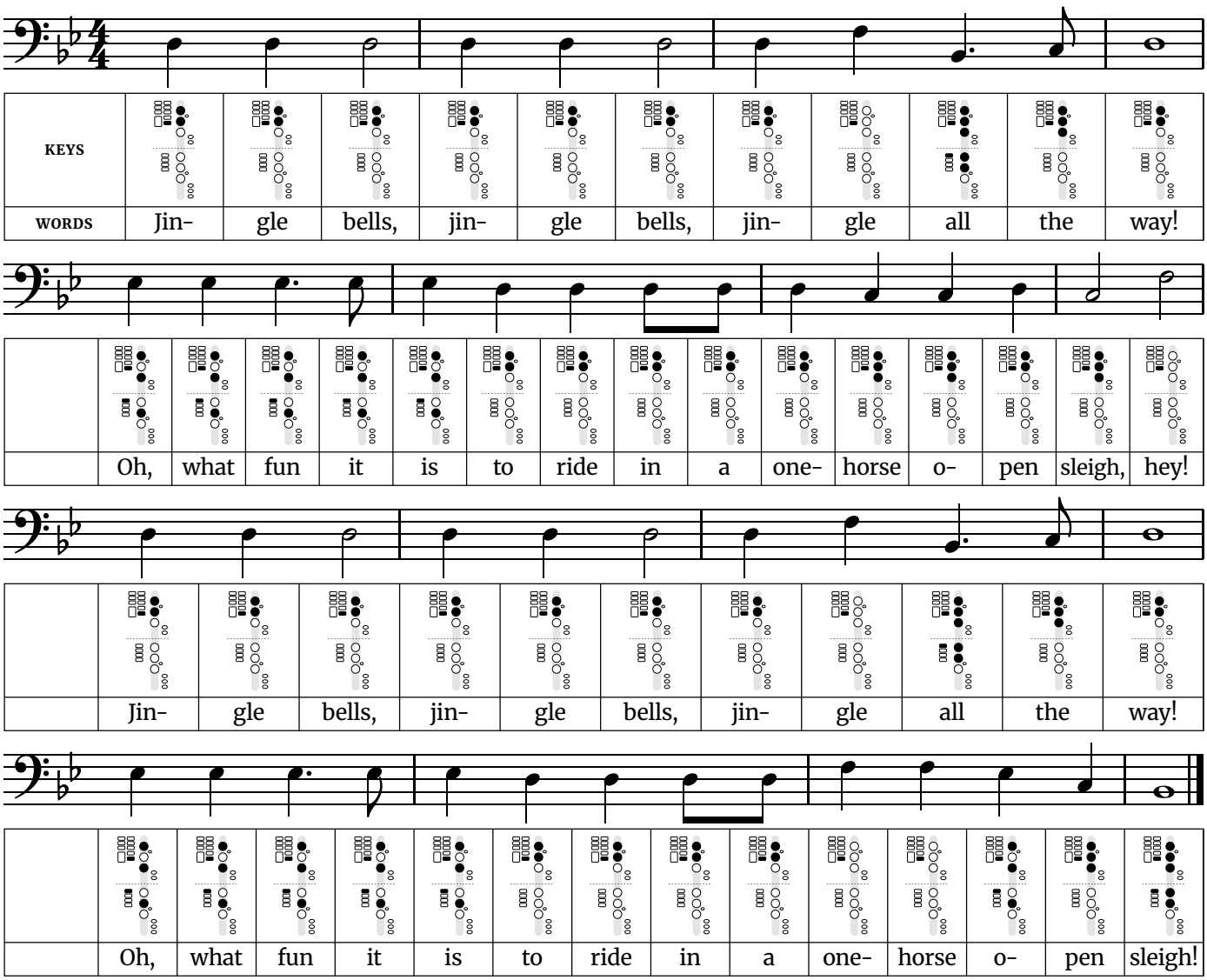
Hardest finger change: Going from D3 (cover or press: whisper key, left first finger and left second finger) to E♭3 (cover or press: whisper key, left first finger, left third finger, right thumb B♭ key and right second finger), 4 keys or holes change. Move all the fingers together, and keep them close to the instrument so nothing has far to travel. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, from the Ninth Symphony (1824).

Easy Songs

Jingle Bells

Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time. The chorus, using the first five notes of the scale.



Fingerings used in this song
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
E♭3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
F3 – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.

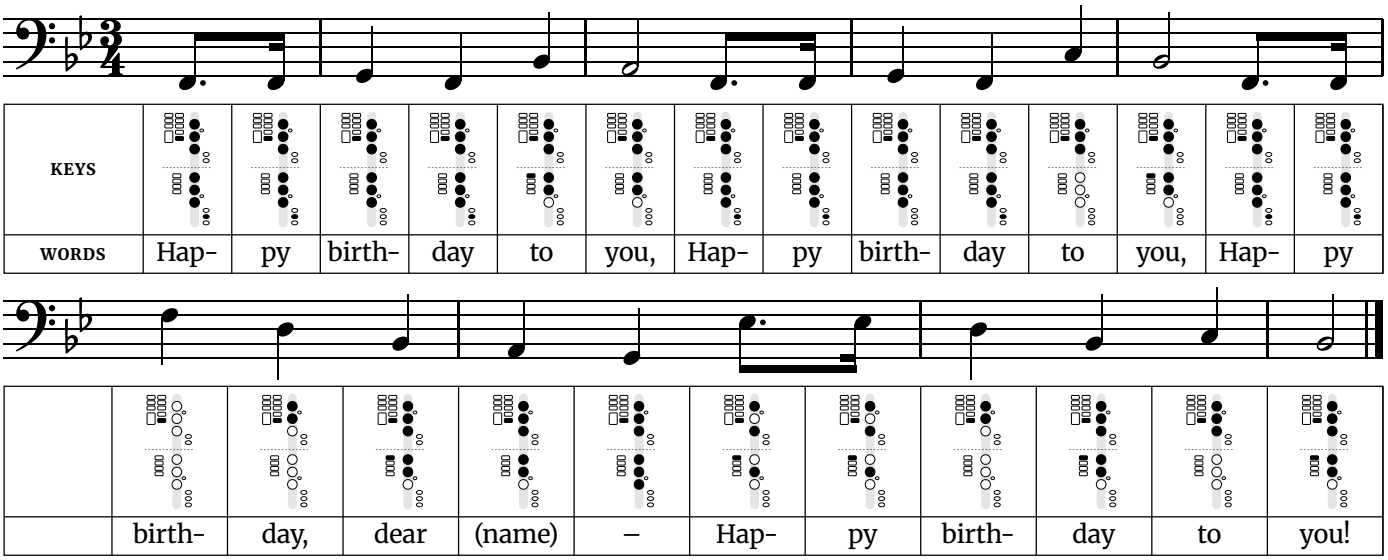
Tip: The widest jump is a fifth, from F3 to B♭2. The chorus repeats one note three times in a row more than once. Light, short tonguing keeps it bouncing; heavy tonguing makes it sound like marching.

Words and music by James Lord Pierpont (1857).

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Happy Birthday

Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 3/4 time. Covers an octave, from the low fifth up to the high fifth.



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**C3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**E♭3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.

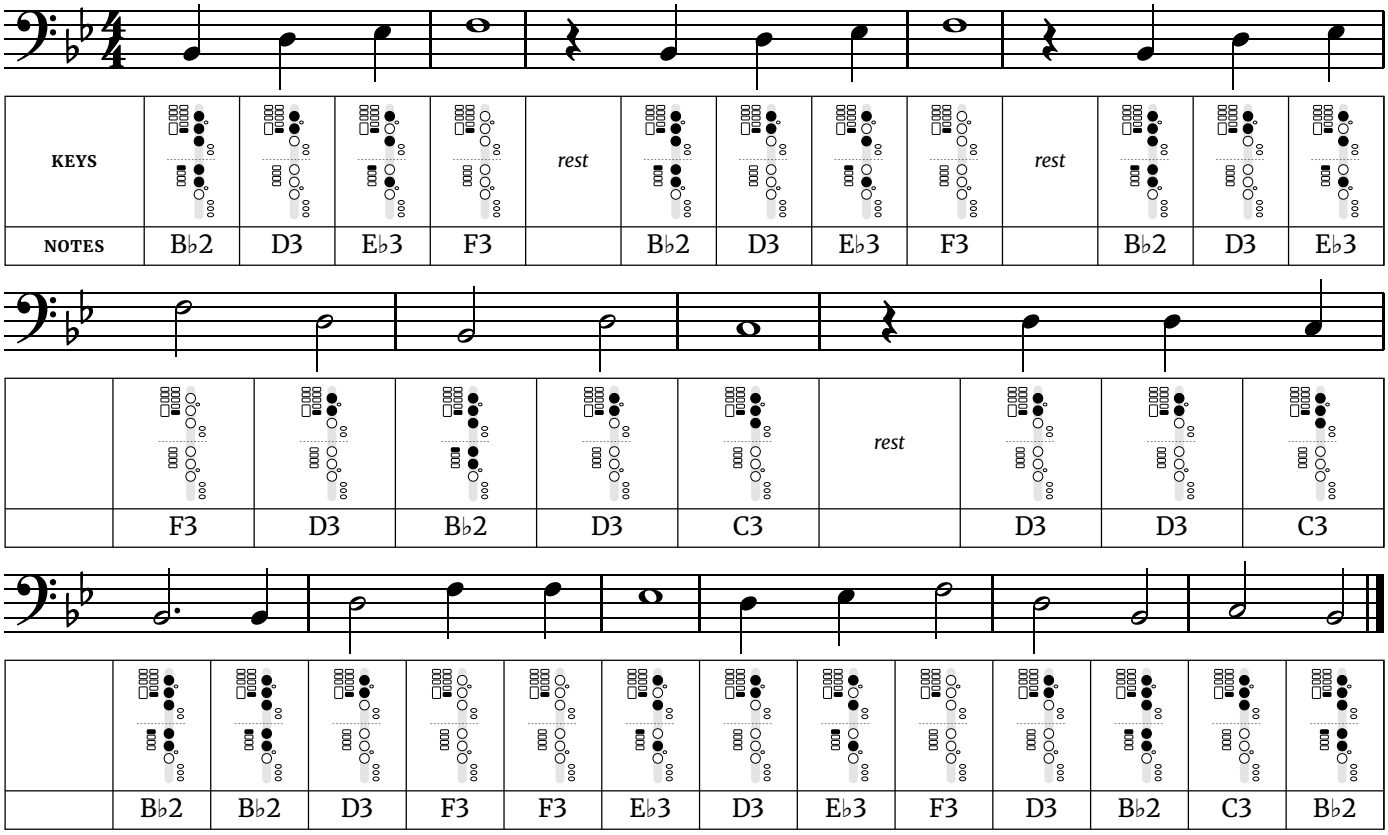
Tip: The widest jump is an octave, from F2 to F3. The third phrase has the widest leap in this set, an octave. Practice the two notes of the octave on their own, slowly, before playing the phrase.

Hardest finger change: Going from F2 (cover or press: whisper key, left first finger, left second finger, left third finger, right first finger, right second finger, right third finger and right pinky F key) to F3 (cover or press: whisper key), 7 keys or holes change. Move all the fingers together, and keep them close to the instrument so nothing has far to travel. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Music: "Good Morning to All" by Mildred J. Hill and Patty Smith Hill (1893). Words: traditional.

When the Saints Go Marching In

Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time. A classic for brass, built on the first five notes of the scale.



Fingerings used in this song
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
E♭3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
F3 – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.

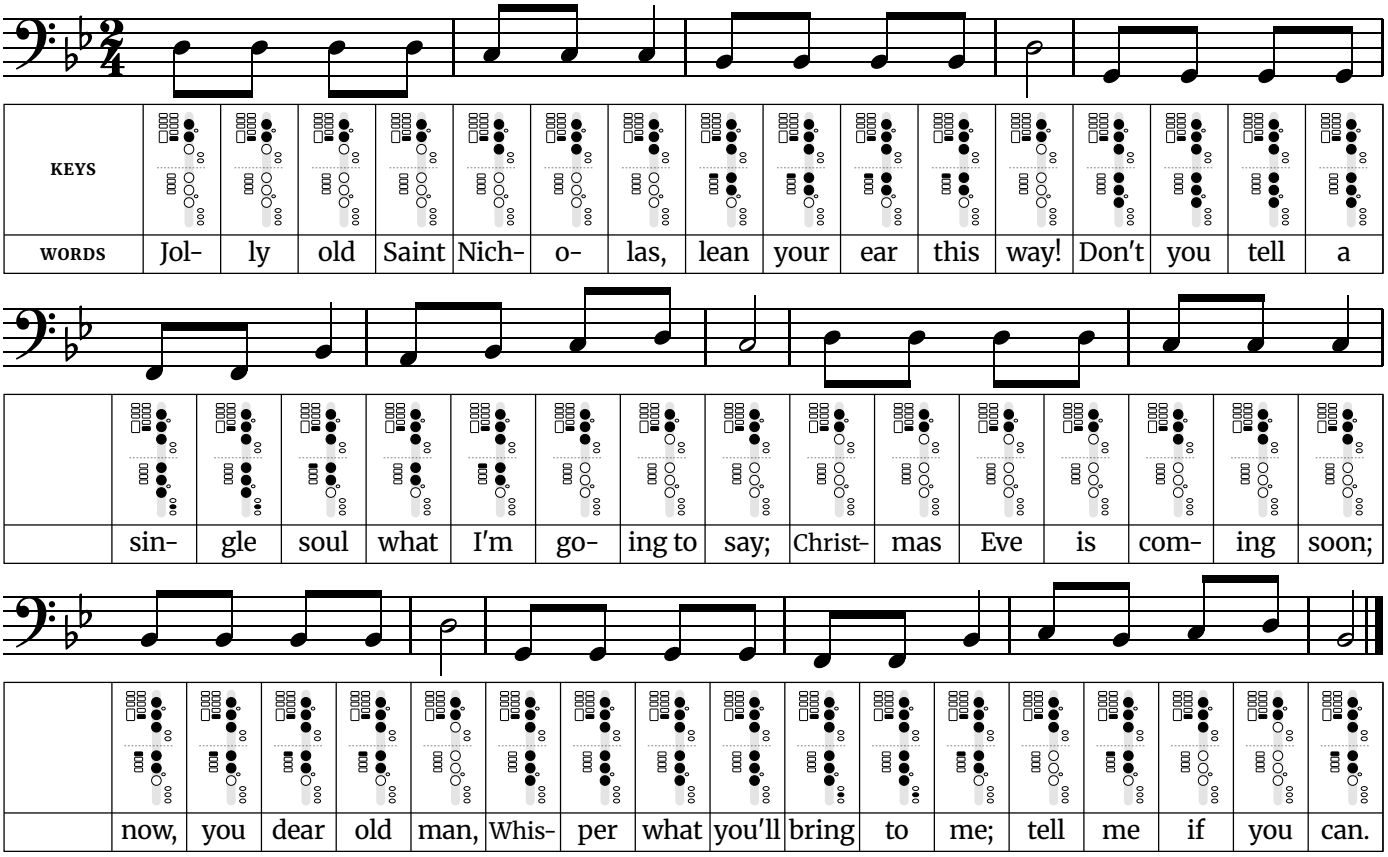
Tip: The widest jump is a fifth, from F3 to B♭2. Each phrase starts after a rest, on the second beat. Count the rest out loud a few times so the first note comes in on time.

Hardest finger change: Going from F3 (cover or press: whisper key) to B♭2 (cover or press: whisper key, left first finger, left second finger, left third finger, right thumb B♭ key, right first finger and right second finger), 6 keys or holes change. Move all the fingers together, and keep them close to the instrument so nothing has far to travel. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Traditional American spiritual.

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

Easy · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 2/4 time · 6 notes, F2 to D3



Fingerings used in this song
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.

Tip: Each phrase opens with the same note four times. Players tend to rush repeated notes, so keep them even and let the last note of each phrase ring for its full length.

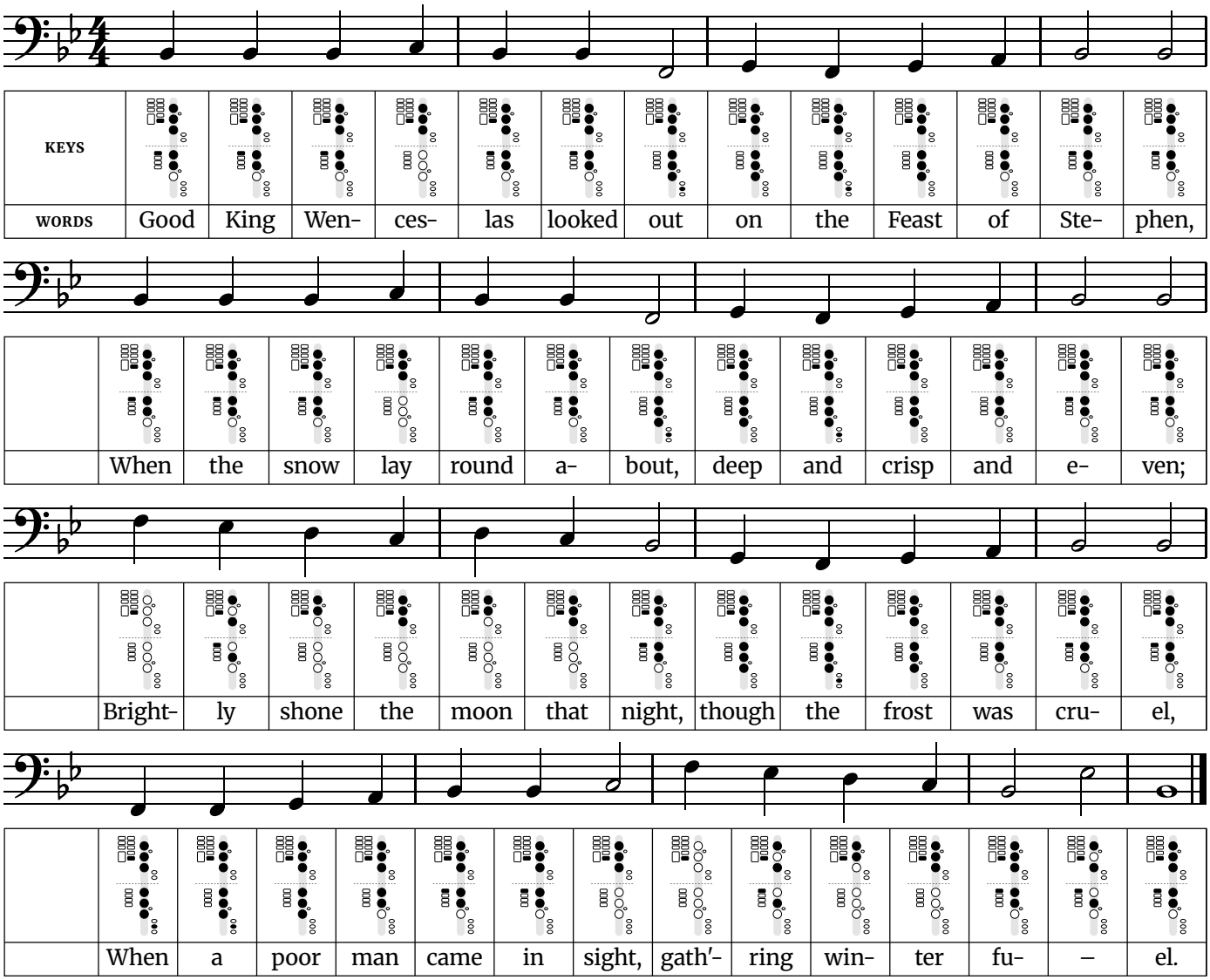
The widest jump is a fifth, down from D3 to G2 in line 3.

The busiest finger change is B♭2 to D3, where 4 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words: Emily Huntington Miller (1865). Music: attributed to James R. Murray (1874).

Good King Wenceslas

Easy · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time · 8 notes, F2 to F3



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**C3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**E♭3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.

Tip: Nearly every note is a quarter note or longer, so the rhythm is the easiest of the Christmas songs. Play it like a sturdy march and give each half note its full two beats.

The widest jump is a fifth, up from B♭2 to F3 in line 3.

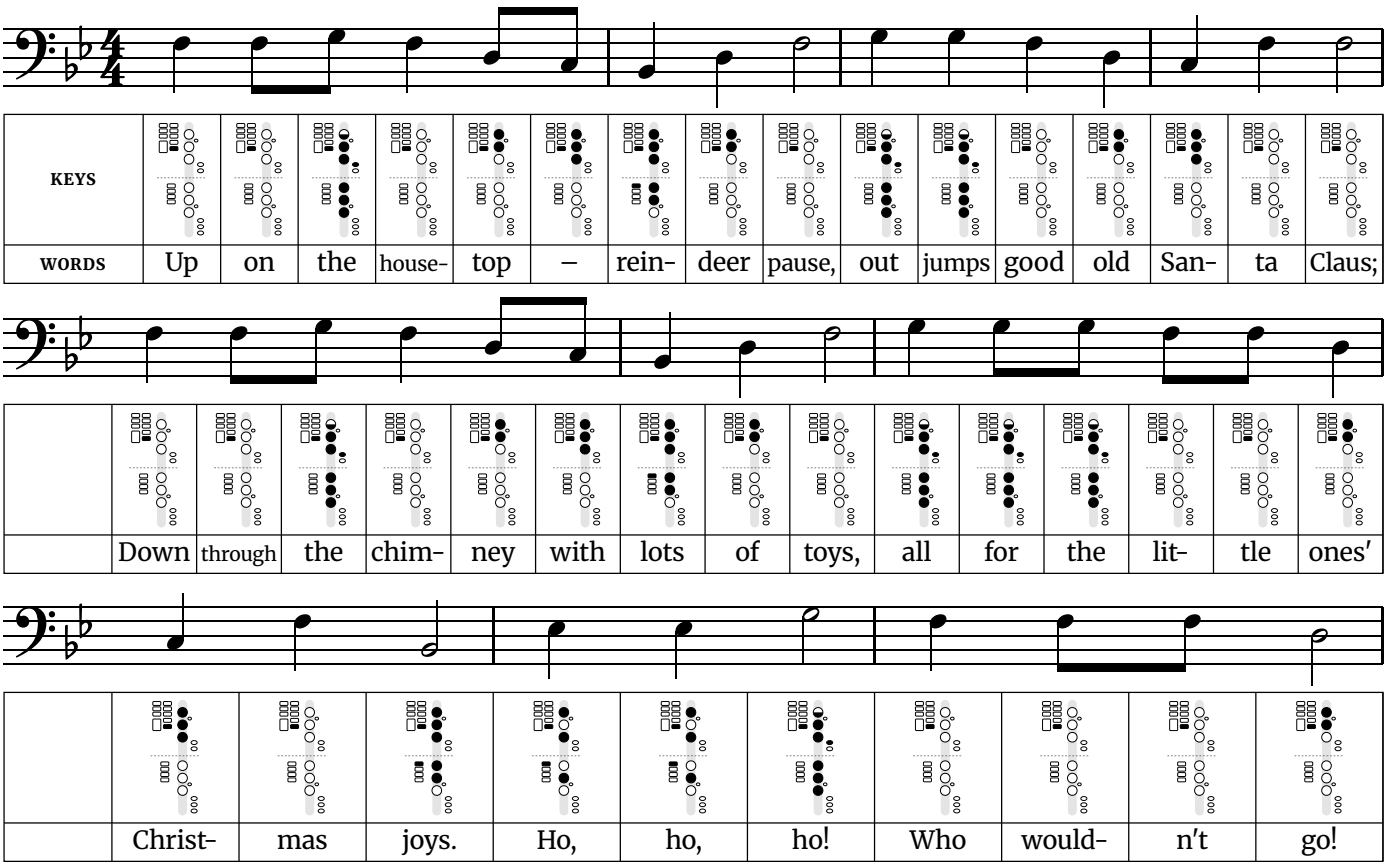
The busiest finger change is B♭2 to F3, where 6 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words: John Mason Neale (1853). Music: "Tempus adest floridum", from Piae Cantiones (1582).

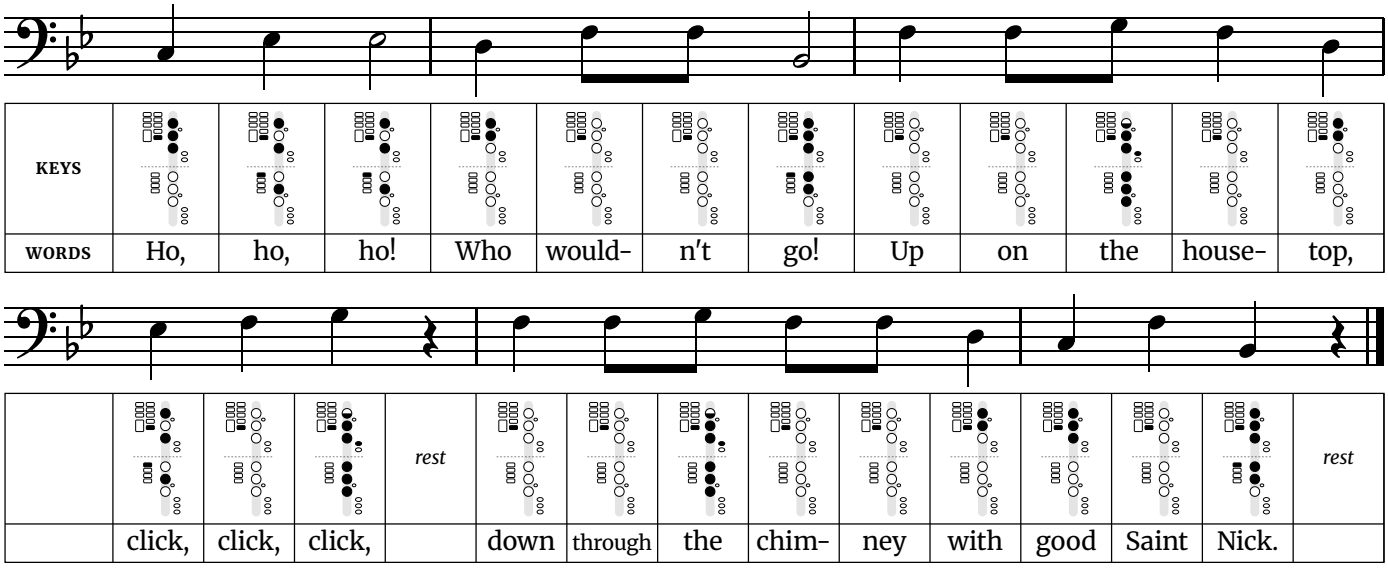
Free at thefingeringchart.com

Up on the Housetop

Easy · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time · 6 notes, B♭2 to G3



Up on the Housetop *(continued)*



Fingerings used in this song
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
E♭3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
F3 – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
G3 – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.

Tip: Pairs of quick notes (“on the”, “lit-tle”) sit in the middle of the verse phrases. Tongue them lightly without speeding up, then give the three “Ho, ho, ho” notes their full length.
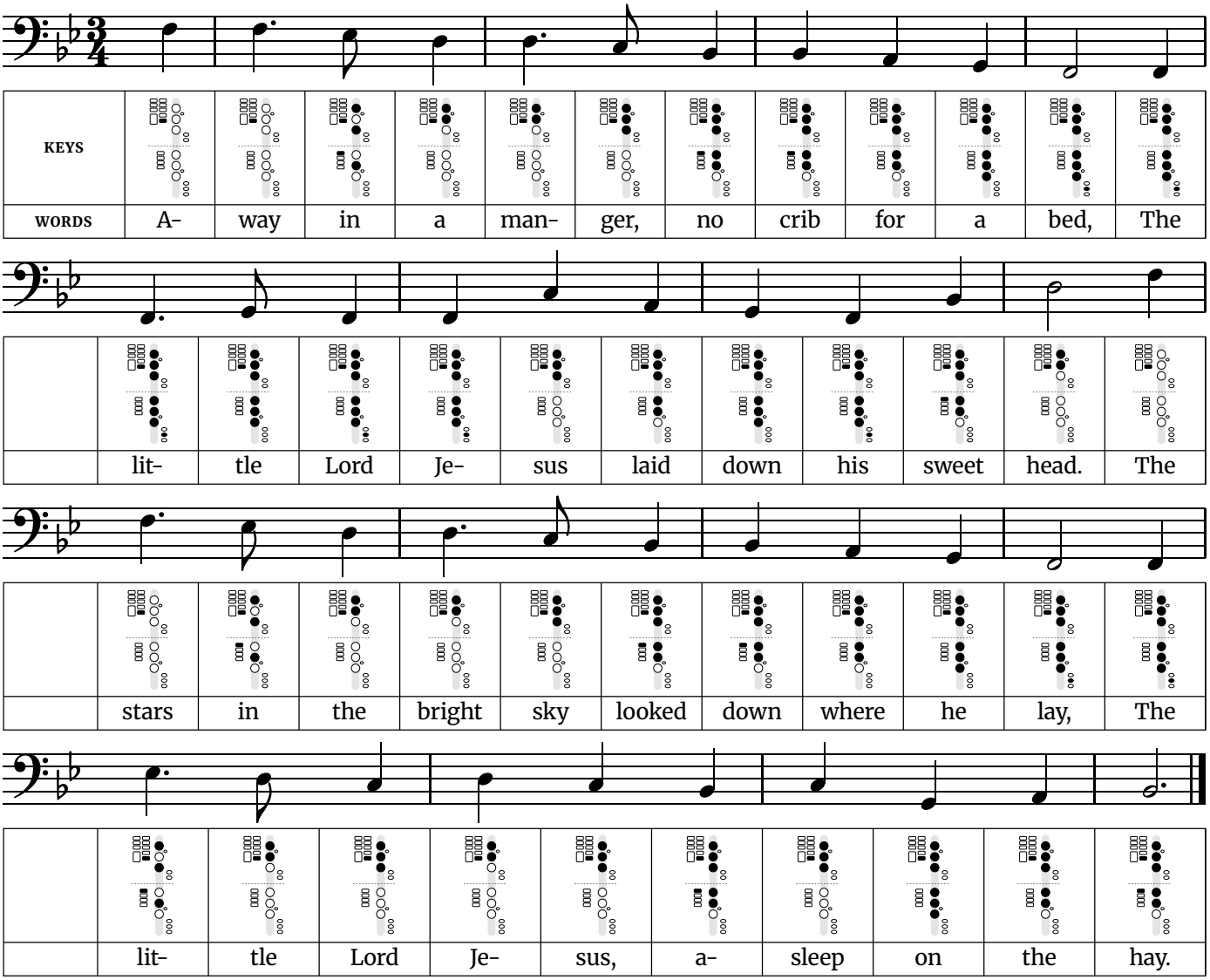
The widest jump is a fifth, down from F3 to B♭2 in line 5.

The busiest finger change is F3 to G3, where 8 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words and music: Benjamin Hanby (1864).

Away in a Manger

Easy · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 3/4 time · 8 notes, F2 to F3



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**C3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**E♭3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.

Tip: It is a slow waltz with a long note at the end of every phrase. Hold those for all their beats and breathe after them, never in the middle of a phrase.

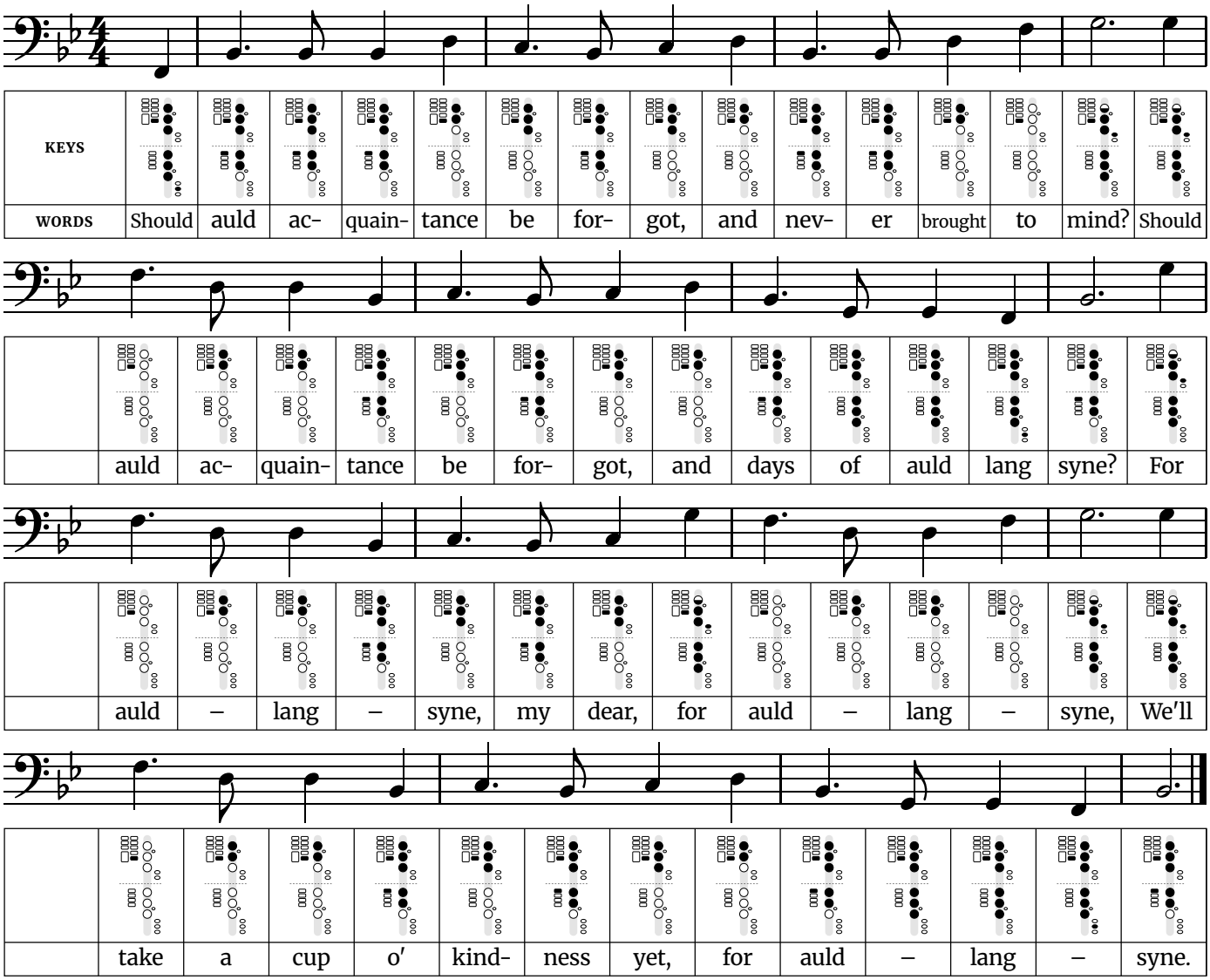
The widest jump is a minor seventh, up from F2 to E♭3 in line 4.

The busiest finger change is F2 to E♭3, where 5 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words: anonymous (1880s, American). Music: "Mueller" by James Ramsey Murray (1887).

Auld Lang Syne

Medium · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time · 7 notes, F2 to G3



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**G3** – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.	

Tip: The tune uses only five pitch names (a pentatonic scale), so nothing falls outside the key. The long-short dotted rhythm comes back in almost every bar; keep the short note crisp and late.

The widest jump is a sixth, up from B♭2 to G3 in line 2.

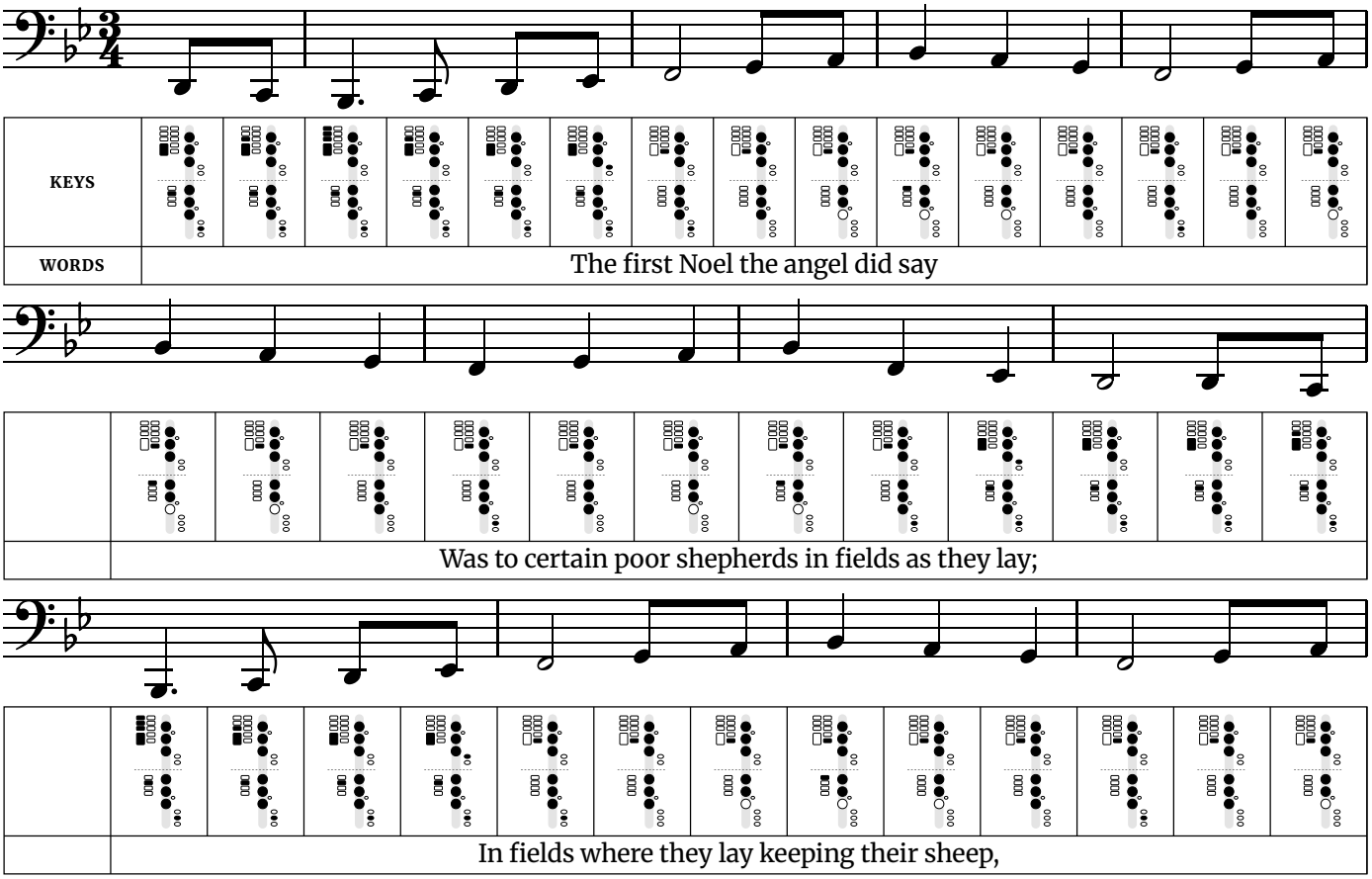
The busiest finger change is F3 to G3, where 8 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words: Robert Burns (1788). Music: traditional Scottish.

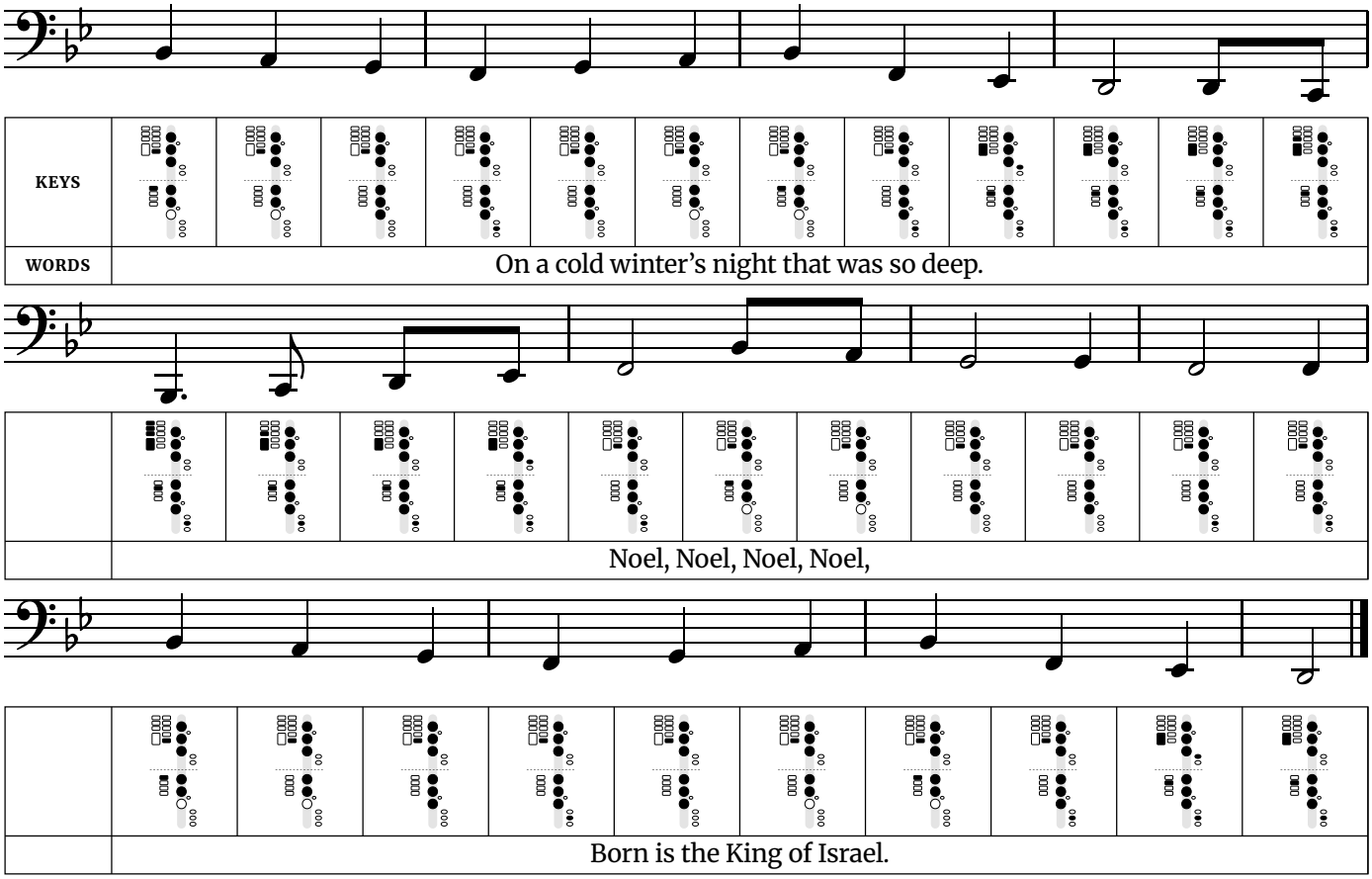
Free at thefingeringchart.com

The First Noel

Medium · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 3/4 time · 8 notes, B♭1 to B♭2



The First Noel *(continued)*



Fingerings used in this song	
B♭1 – Left hand: thumb low B♭ key, thumb low B key, thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**F2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.
C2 – Left hand: thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**G2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
D2 – Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**A2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.
E♭2 – Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**B♭2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.

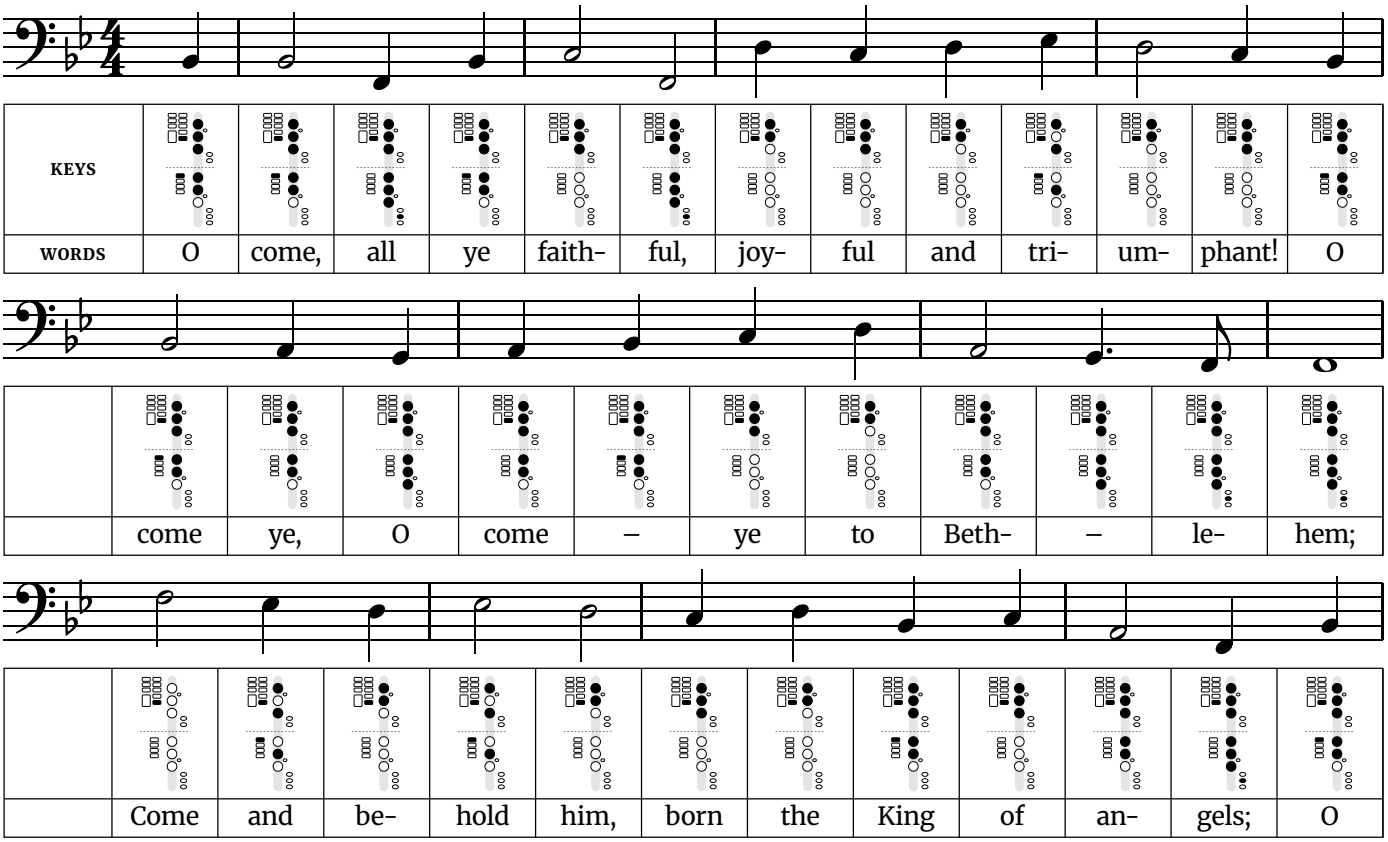
Tip: Every second phrase ends on the same note, so it is easy to lose your place; follow the words. The two quick notes that start most phrases are a pickup: play them lightly into the strong beat.

The busiest finger change is E♭2 to F2, where 4 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

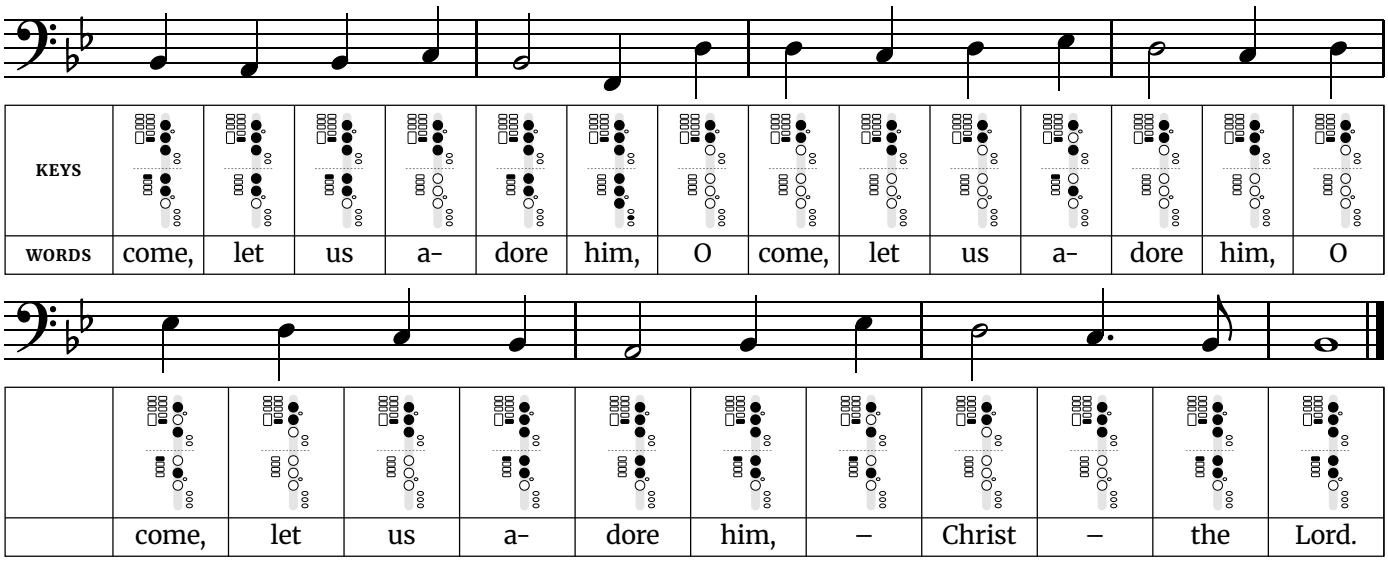
Words and music: traditional English (Cornish), first printed in the 1820s.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Medium · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time · 8 notes, F2 to F3



O Come, All Ye Faithful *(continued)*



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**C3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**E♭3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.

Tip: The three "O come, let us adore him" phrases each start a little higher than the one before. Save some air and some volume for the third.
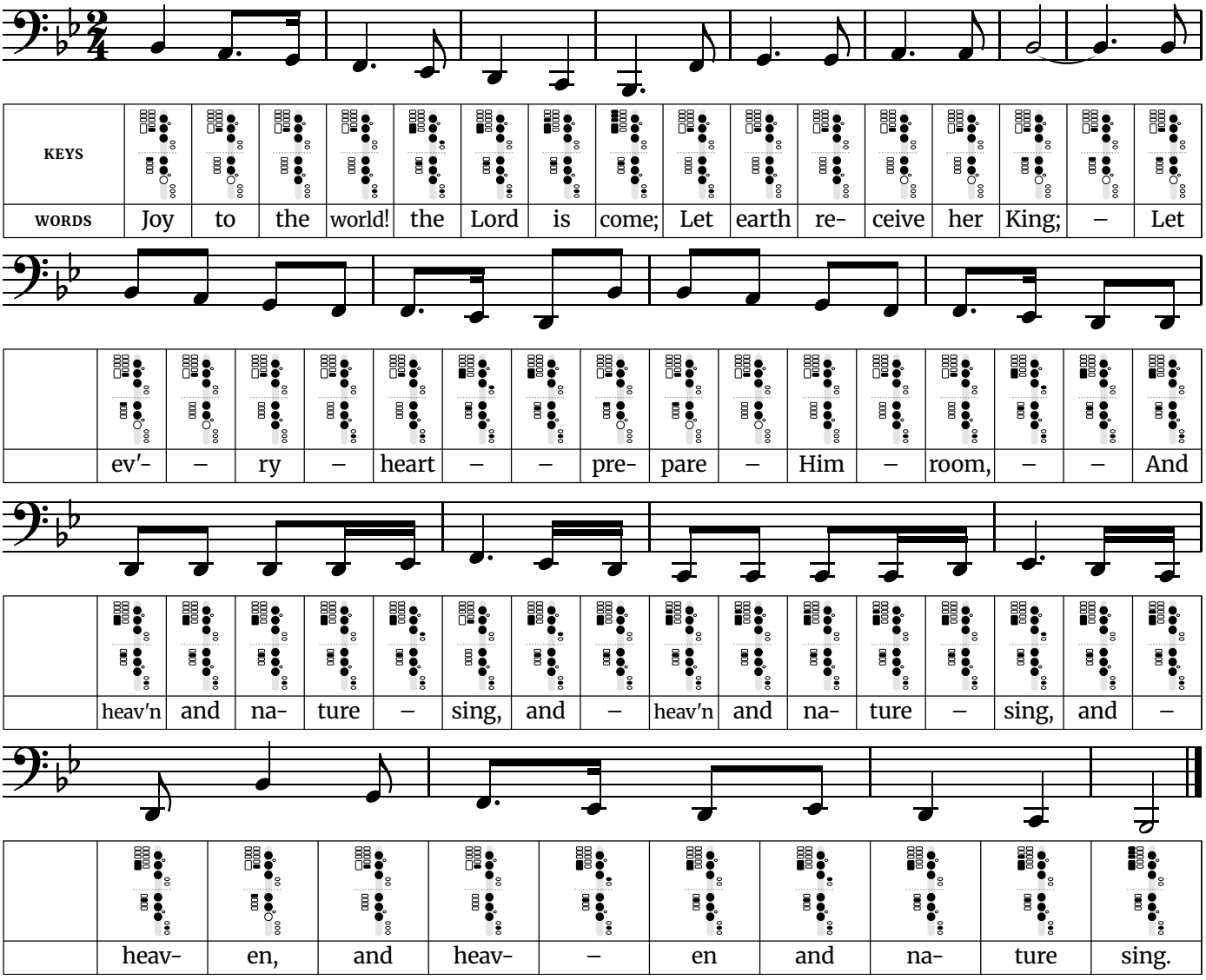
The widest jump is an octave, up from F2 to F3 in line 3.

The busiest finger change is F2 to F3, where 7 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words: Latin hymn "Adeste Fideles", English by Frederick Oakeley (1841, current wording printed 1852). Music: attributed to John Francis Wade.

Joy to the World

Medium · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 2/4 time · 8 notes, B♭1 to B♭2



Fingerings used in this song	
B♭1 – Left hand: thumb low B♭ key, thumb low B key, thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**F2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.
C2 – Left hand: thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**G2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
D2 – Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**A2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.
E♭2 – Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**B♭2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.

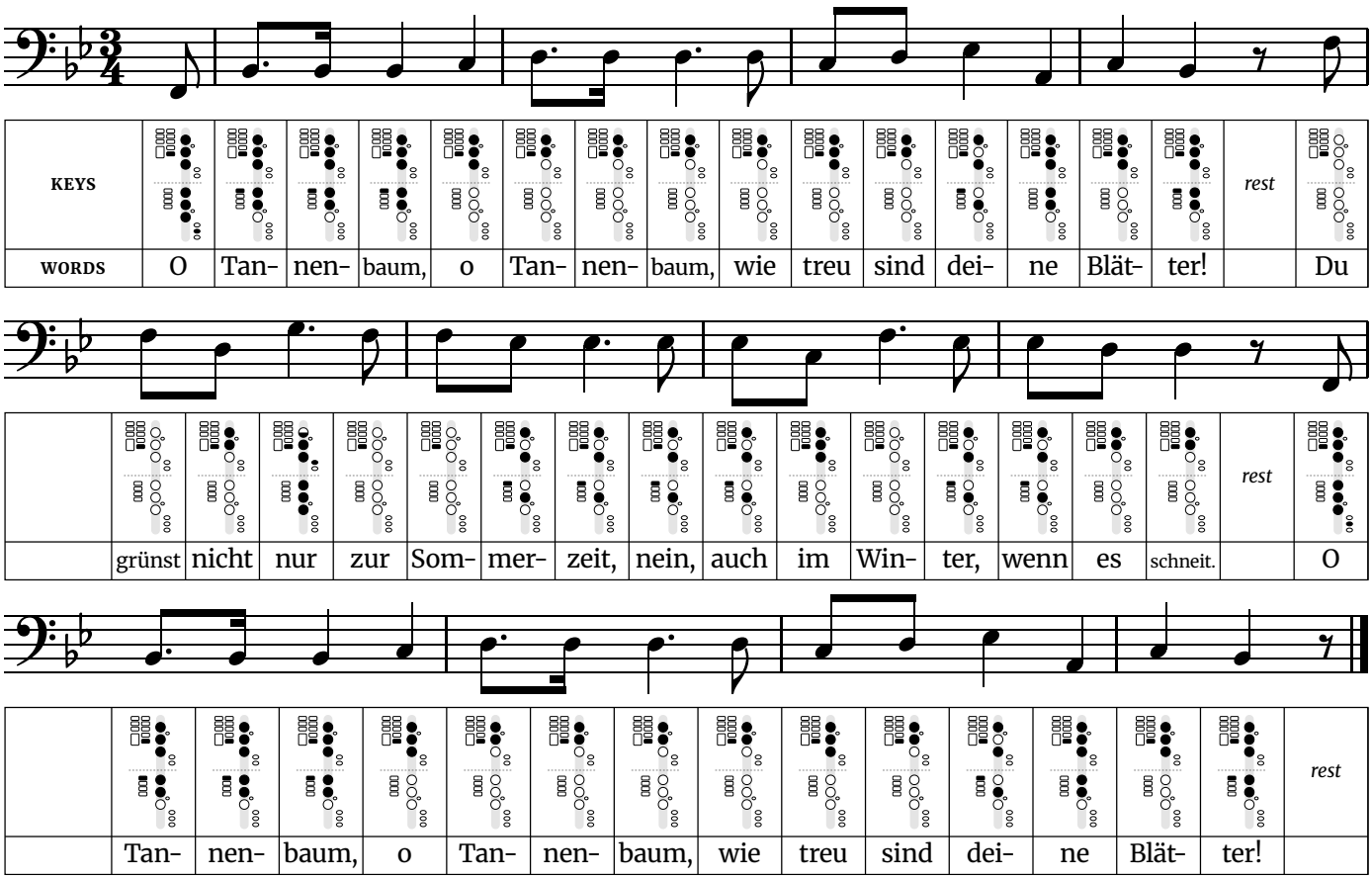
Tip: The first phrase walks straight down the scale, one note at a time, which makes it a good test of clean finger changes. Later the repeated "and heaven and nature sing" notes need light, even tonguing.

The widest jump is a minor sixth, up from D2 to B♭2 in line 4.

Words: Isaac Watts (1719). Music: "Antioch", arranged by Lowell Mason.

O Christmas Tree

Medium · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 3/4 time · 8 notes, F2 to G3



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**E♭3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.	**G3** – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.

Tip: The long-short dotted rhythm at the start of each phrase gives the carol its lilt. Make the short note quick and light so it does not turn into two even notes.

The widest jump is a sixth, down from D3 to F2 in line 2.
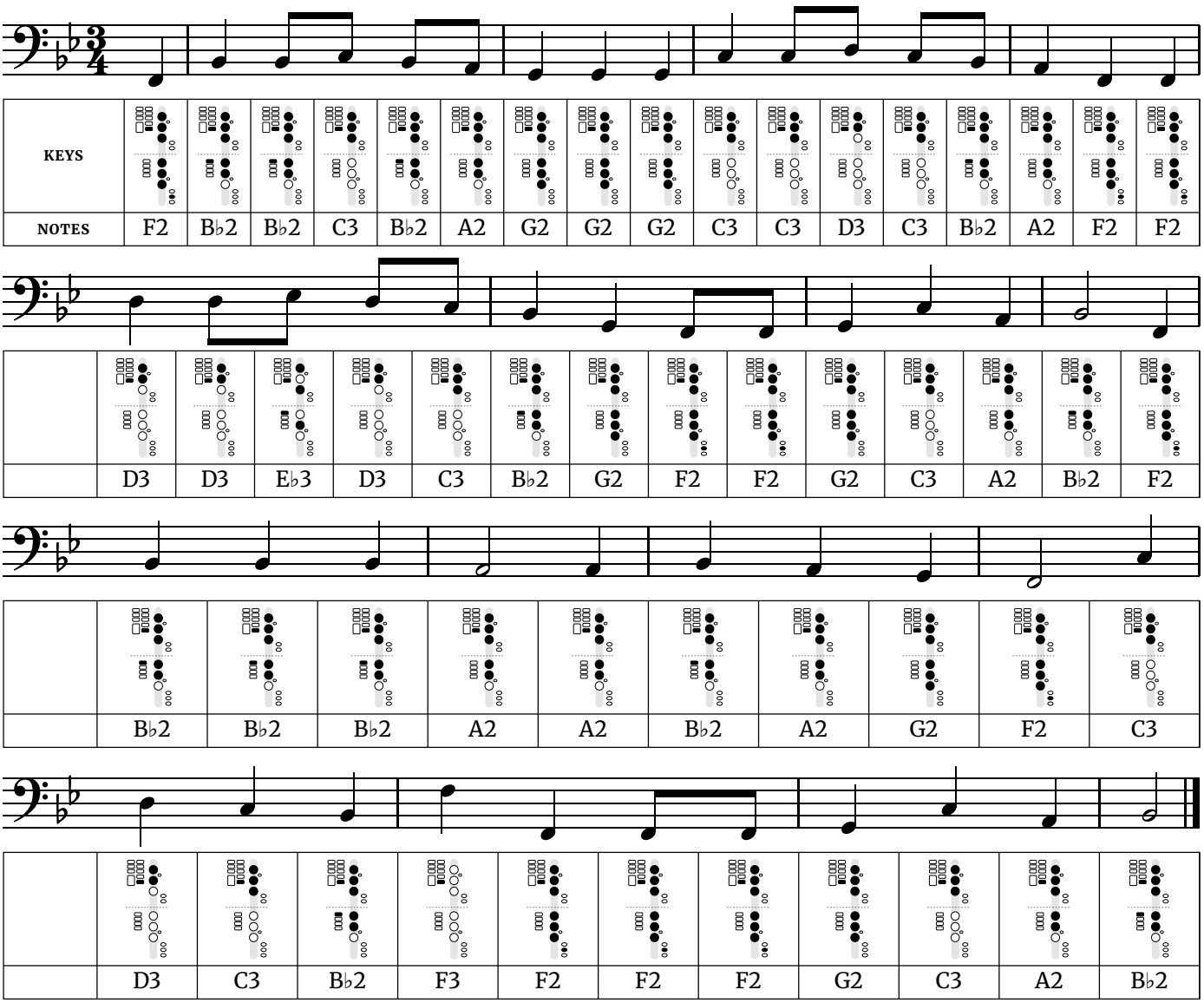
The busiest finger change is G3 to F3, where 8 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words: Ernst Anschütz (1824), shown in the original German. Music: traditional German.

Free at thefingeringchart.com

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Medium · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 3/4 time · 8 notes, F2 to F3



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**C3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**E♭3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
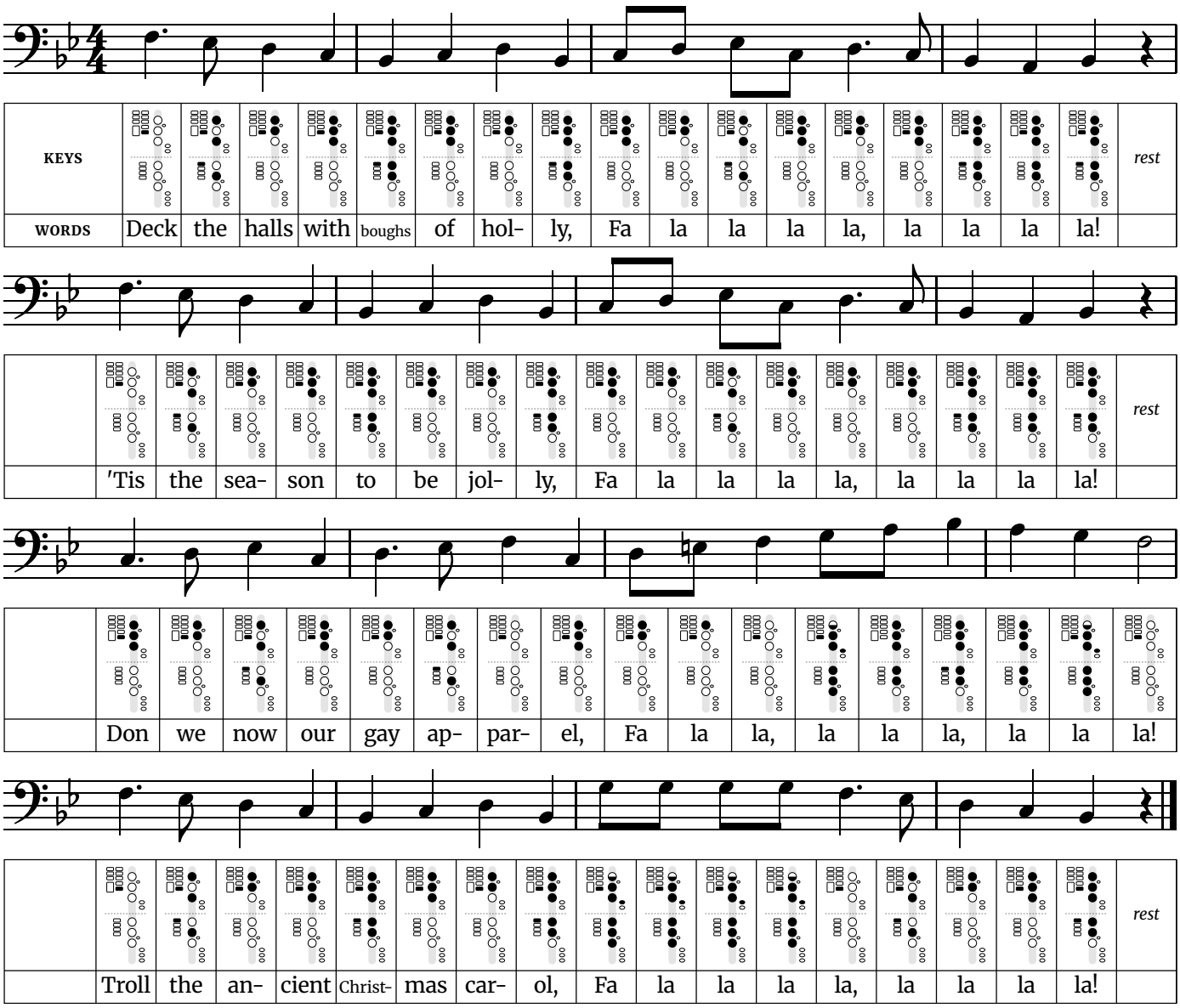
Tip: It moves quickly in three, with a jump of a sixth at the start of the second phrase and a drop of a full octave in the last phrase. Think of the landing note before you leave the first one.

The widest jump is an octave, down from F3 to F2 in line 4.

Music: English traditional (West Country). Words not shown.

Deck the Halls

Harder · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time · 10 notes, A2 to B♭3



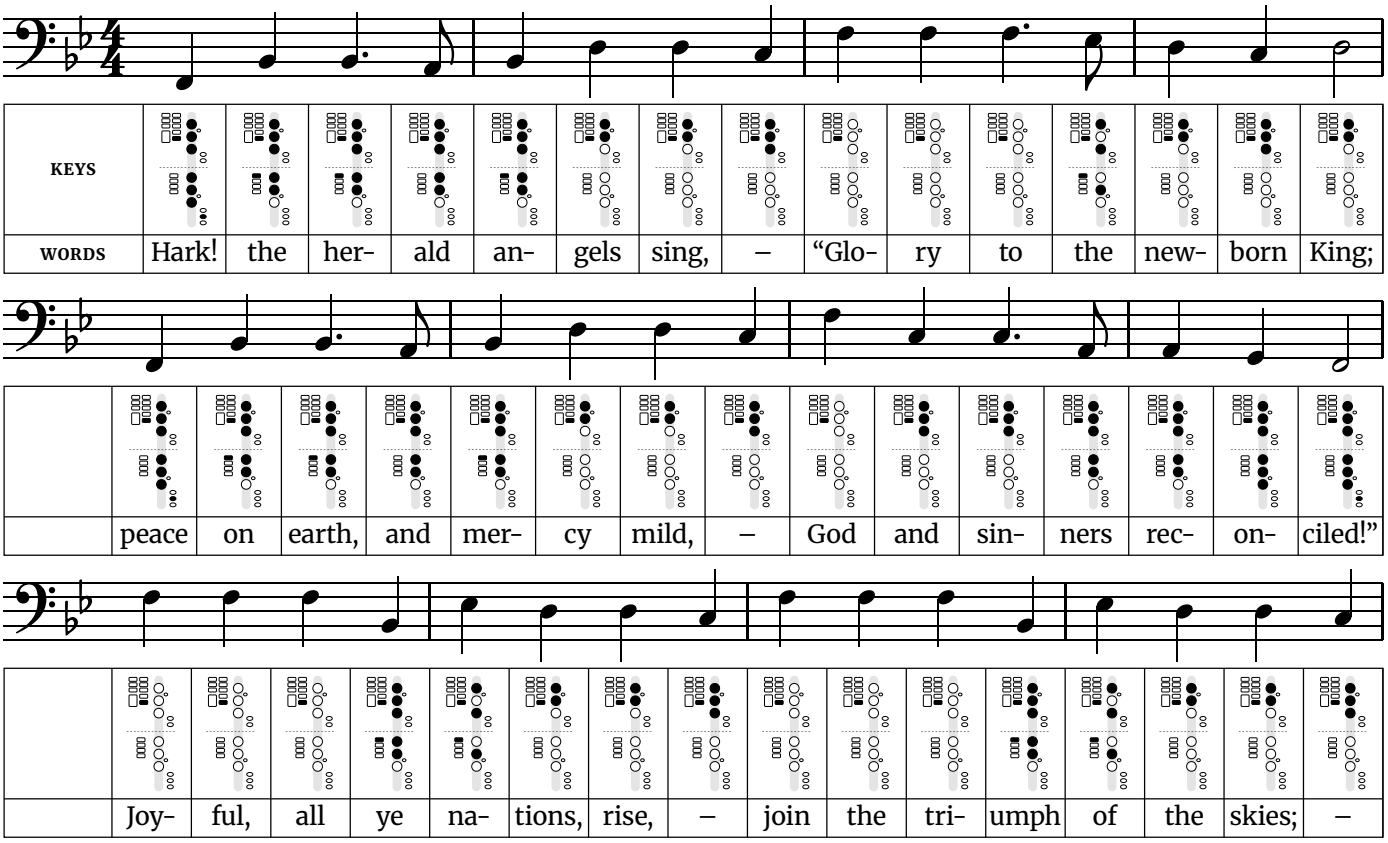
Fingerings used in this song	
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**E3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1. Right hand: nothing down.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.	**G3** – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.	**A3** – Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.
E♭3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.	**B♭3** – Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.

Tip: The third phrase climbs to the highest note of the carol in one long run of fa-las. Take a full breath before it and play it as one phrase.

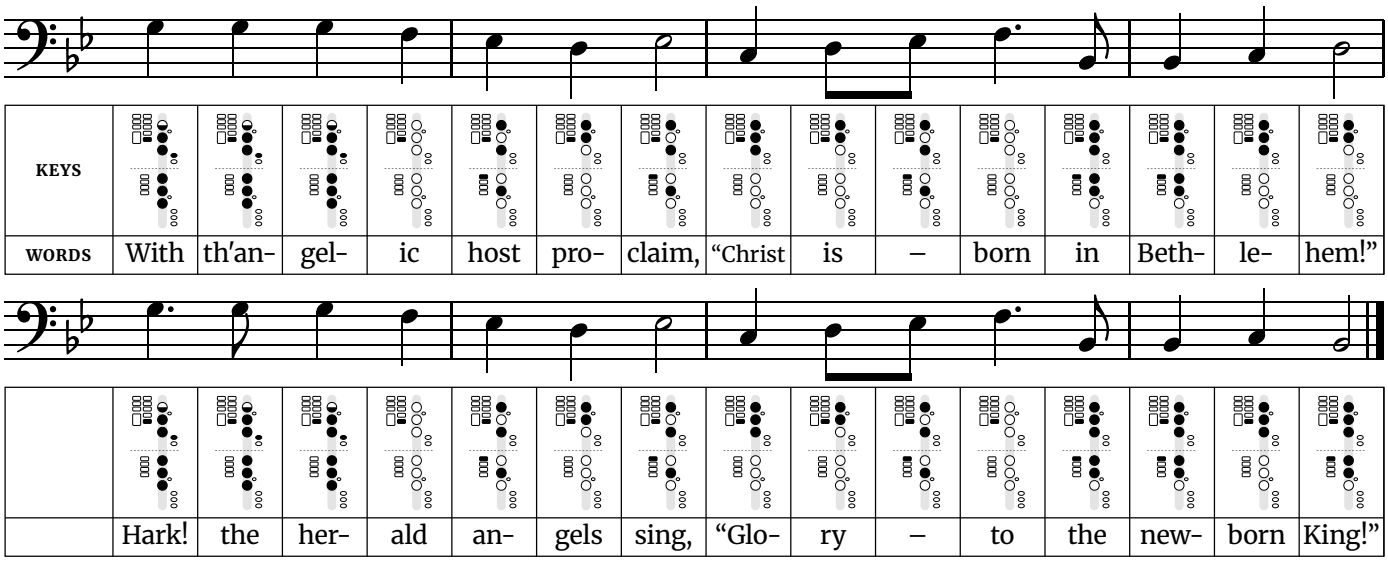
Words: Thomas Oliphant (1862), as revised in 1877. Music: Welsh traditional ("Nos Galan").

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Harder · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time · 9 notes, F2 to G3



Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *(continued)*



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**E♭3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**G3** – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.	

Tip: It is long, with five phrases and no rests to speak of. Breathe at the commas in the words, and save air for the last two phrases, which sit highest.

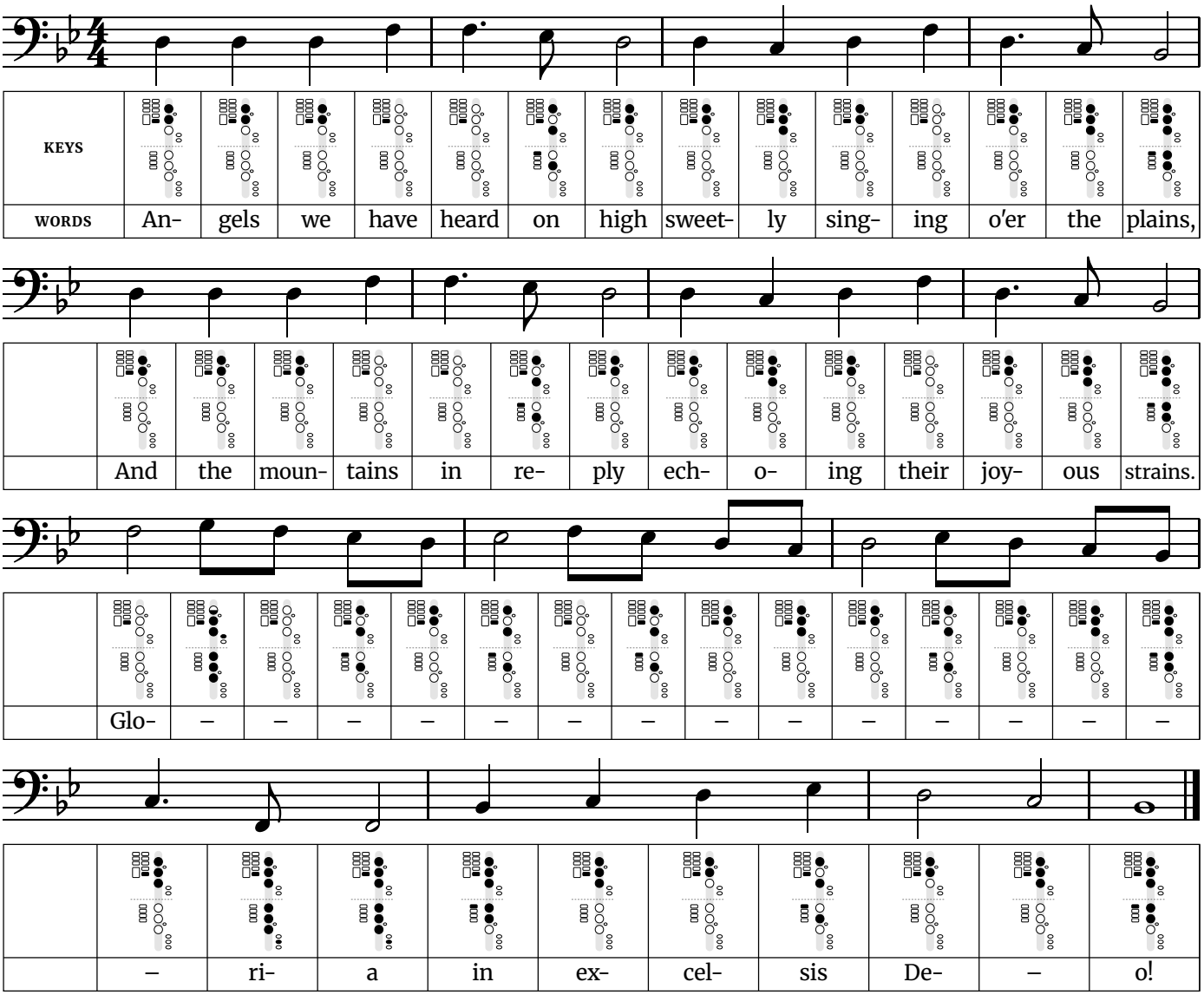
The widest jump is an octave, up from F2 to F3 in line 3.

The busiest finger change is G3 to F3, where 8 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words: Charles Wesley (1739), altered by George Whitefield. Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1840).

Angels We Have Heard on High

Harder · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time · 7 notes, F2 to G3



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**E♭3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.	**G3** – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.	
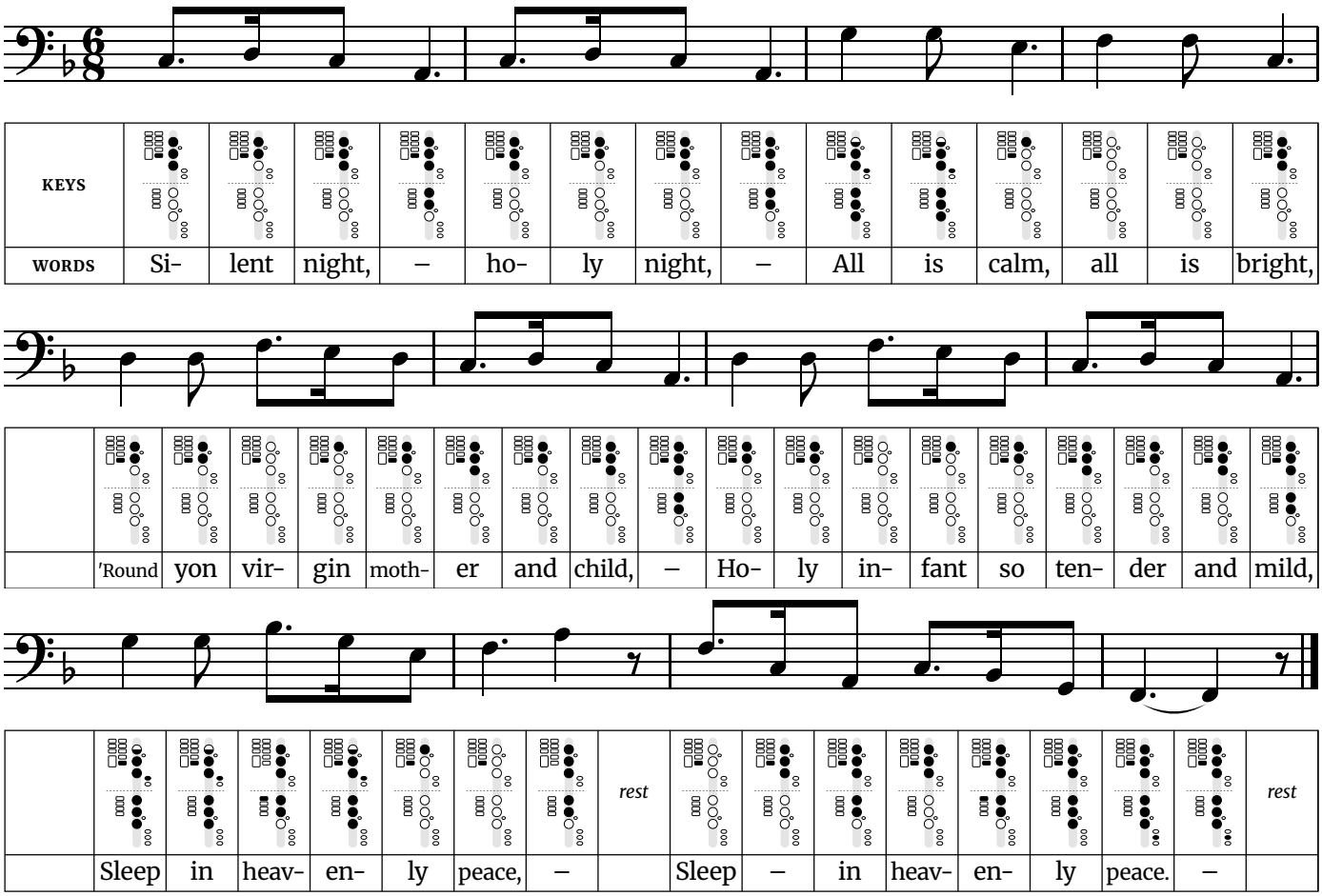
Tip: The Gloria run is the hard part: 16 notes on one syllable. Slur it, learn it slowly in groups of four, and take a full breath just before it starts.

The widest jump is a fifth, down from C3 to F2 in line 4.

Words: James Chadwick (1862), after the French carol "Les Anges dans nos campagnes". Music: "Gloria", French traditional. The Gloria is printed once, as in the 1891 Parish Choir setting.

Silent Night

Harder · Written in F major (concert pitch) · 6/8 time · 11 notes, F2 to B♭3



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**E3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**G3** – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**A3** – Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.	**B♭3** – Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.	

Tip: This has the widest range of the Christmas songs and the slowest tempo. The work is in the air, not the fingers: play each phrase in one breath and keep the long notes steady to the very end.

The widest jump is a minor seventh, up from A2 to G3 in line 3.

The busiest finger change is G3 to E3, where 7 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

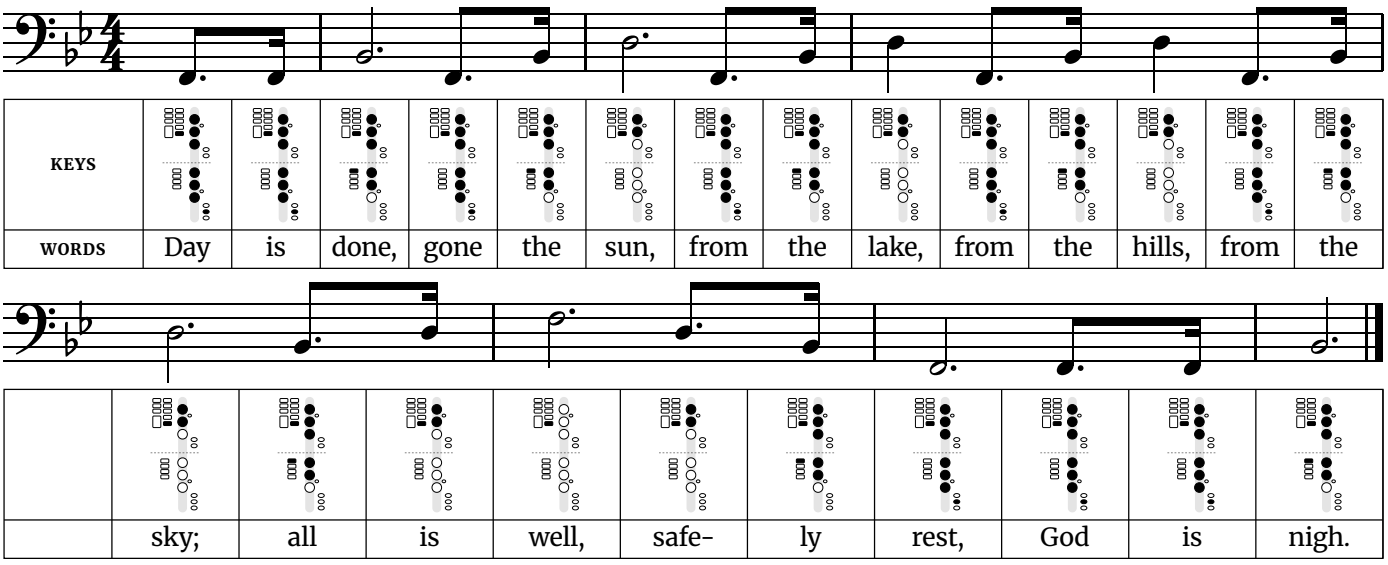
Words: Joseph Mohr (1816), English by John Freeman Young (1859). Music: Franz Xaver Gruber (1818).

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Patriotic Songs

Taps

Easy · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time · 4 notes, F2 to F3



Fingerings used in this song
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
F3 – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.

Tip: Taps is played slowly and freely, so let each long note ring for its full length before you move on. Keep the short pickup notes light, keep the volume steady through each held note, and don't hurry it.
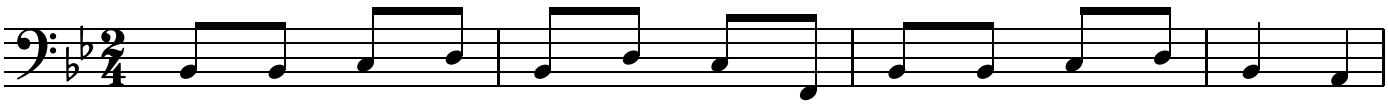
The widest jump is a sixth, down from D3 to F2 in line 1.

The busiest finger change is D3 to F2, where 5 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.
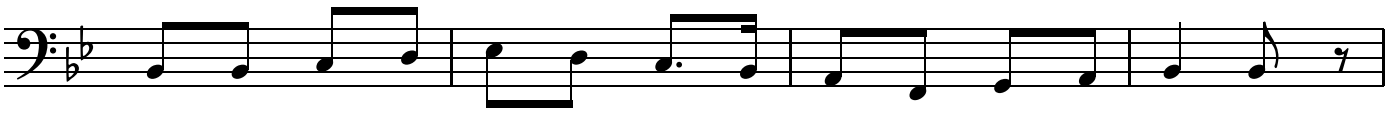
Music: arranged by Daniel Butterfield (1862). Words: traditional, not official.

Yankee Doodle
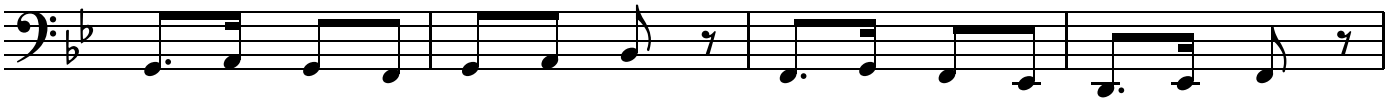
Easy · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 2/4 time · 9 notes, D2 to E♭3
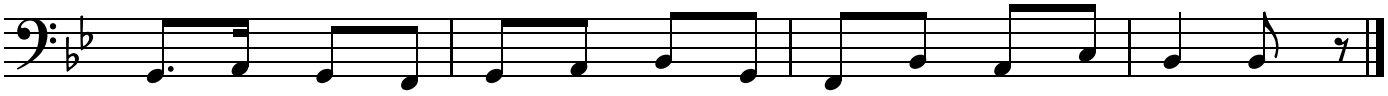


KEYS														
WORDS	Yan-	kee	Doo-	dle	went	to	town,	a-	rid-	ing	on	a	po-	ny;



	Stuck	a	fea-	ther	in	his	cap	and	called	it	mac-	a-	ro-	ni.	



	Yan-	kee	Doo-	dle,	keep	it	up,		Yan-	kee	Doo-	dle	dan-	–	dy,		



	Mind	the	mu-	sic	and	the	step,	and	with	the	girls	be	han-	dy.	

Fingerings used in this song	
D2 – Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**B♭2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
E♭2 – Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**C3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**E♭3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	

Tip: The verse moves in steady eighth notes. Tongue every note separately and keep them even, and keep the dotted pairs in the chorus short-long-short, like a march.

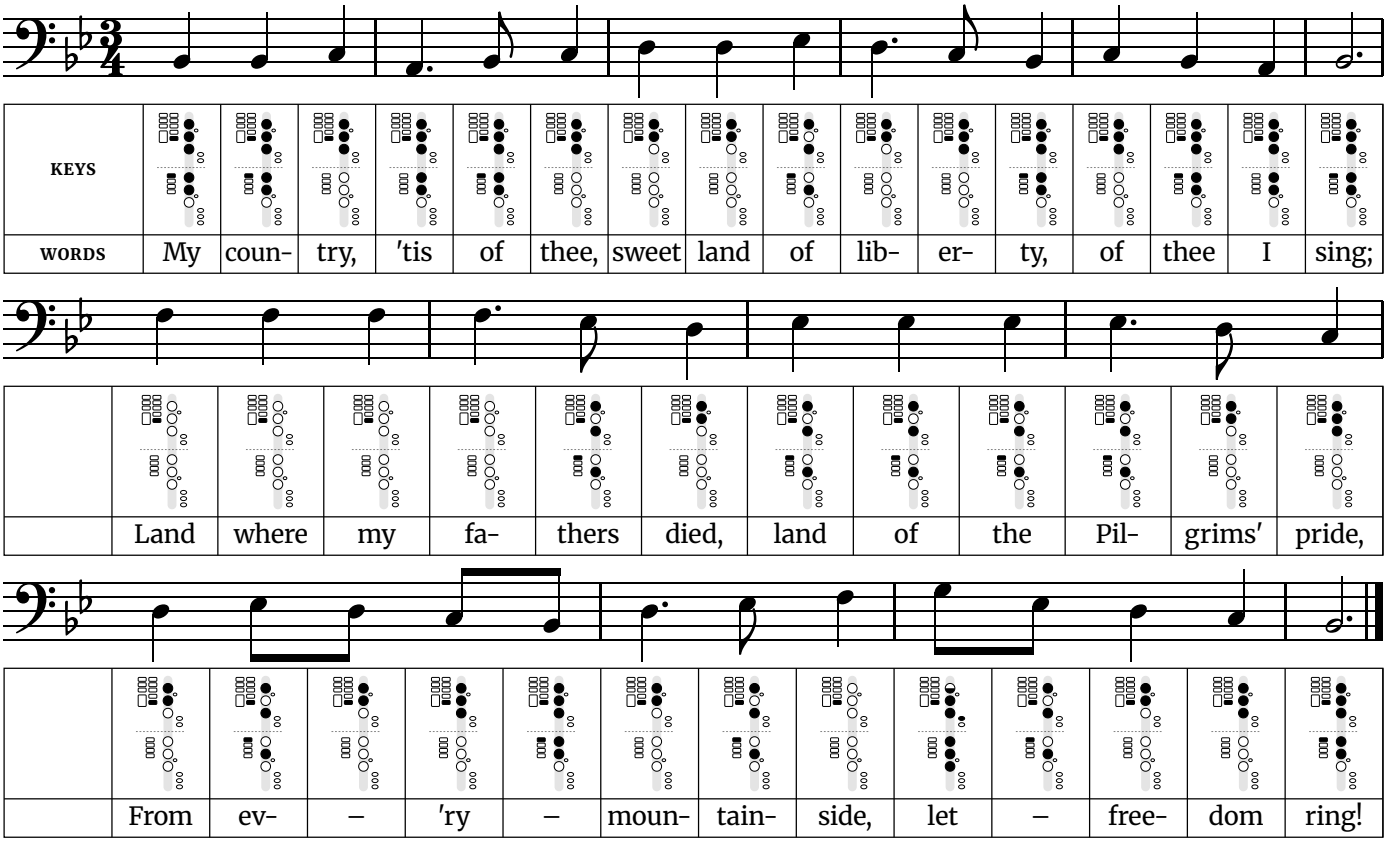
Music: traditional (known by the 1750s). Words: traditional verse; chorus as printed in The Everyday Song Book (1927).

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Patriotic Songs

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Easy · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 3/4 time · 7 notes, A2 to G3



Fingerings used in this song	
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**E♭3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 2.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.	**G3** – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.	

Tip: This is a slow waltz with three beats to a bar. The dotted quarter and eighth pairs ("coun-try", "lib-er-ty") are the main rhythm, so count them carefully. Give the last note of each phrase all three beats.
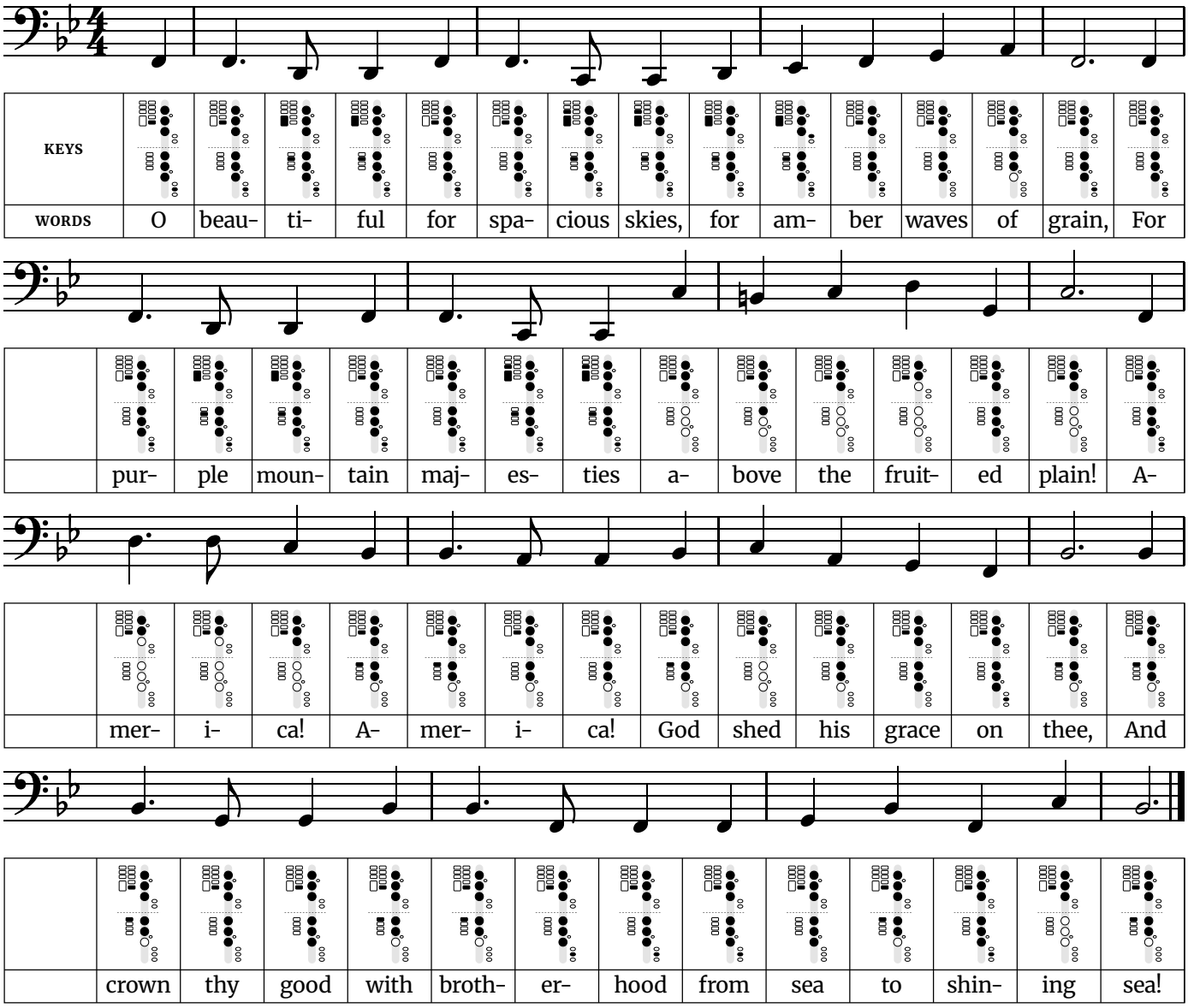
The widest jump is a fifth, up from B♭2 to F3 in line 2.

The busiest finger change is F3 to G3, where 8 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words: Samuel Francis Smith (1831). Music: the tune of "God Save the King" (anonymous, 1740s).

America the Beautiful

Medium · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time · 10 notes, C2 to D3



Fingerings used in this song	
C2 – Left hand: thumb low C key, thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**A2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.
D2 – Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**B♭2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
E♭2 – Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**B2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1.
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**C3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
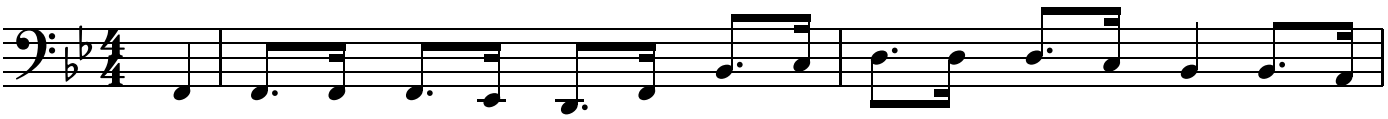
Tip: Every phrase starts with the same short-long pattern ("O beau-ti-ful"). Keep the eighth note short, then breathe at the end of each phrase so the next one starts on time.

Words: Katharine Lee Bates (1895, revised 1911). Music: "Materna" by Samuel A. Ward (1882).

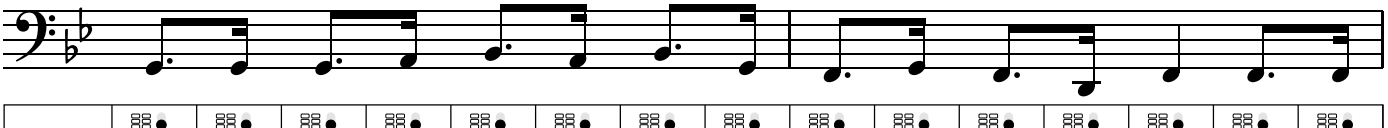
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Battle Hymn of the Republic
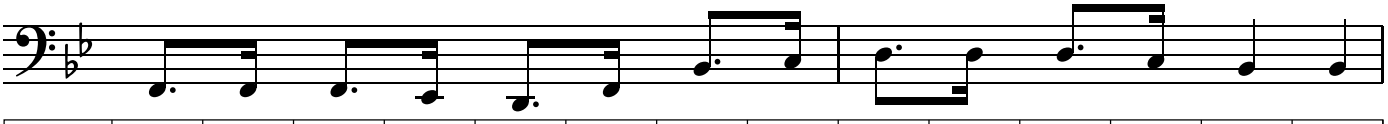
Medium · Written in B♭ major (concert pitch) · 4/4 time · 8 notes, D2 to D3



KEYS																
WORDS	Mine	eyes	have	seen	the	glo-	ry	of	the	com-	ing	of	the	Lord;	He	is

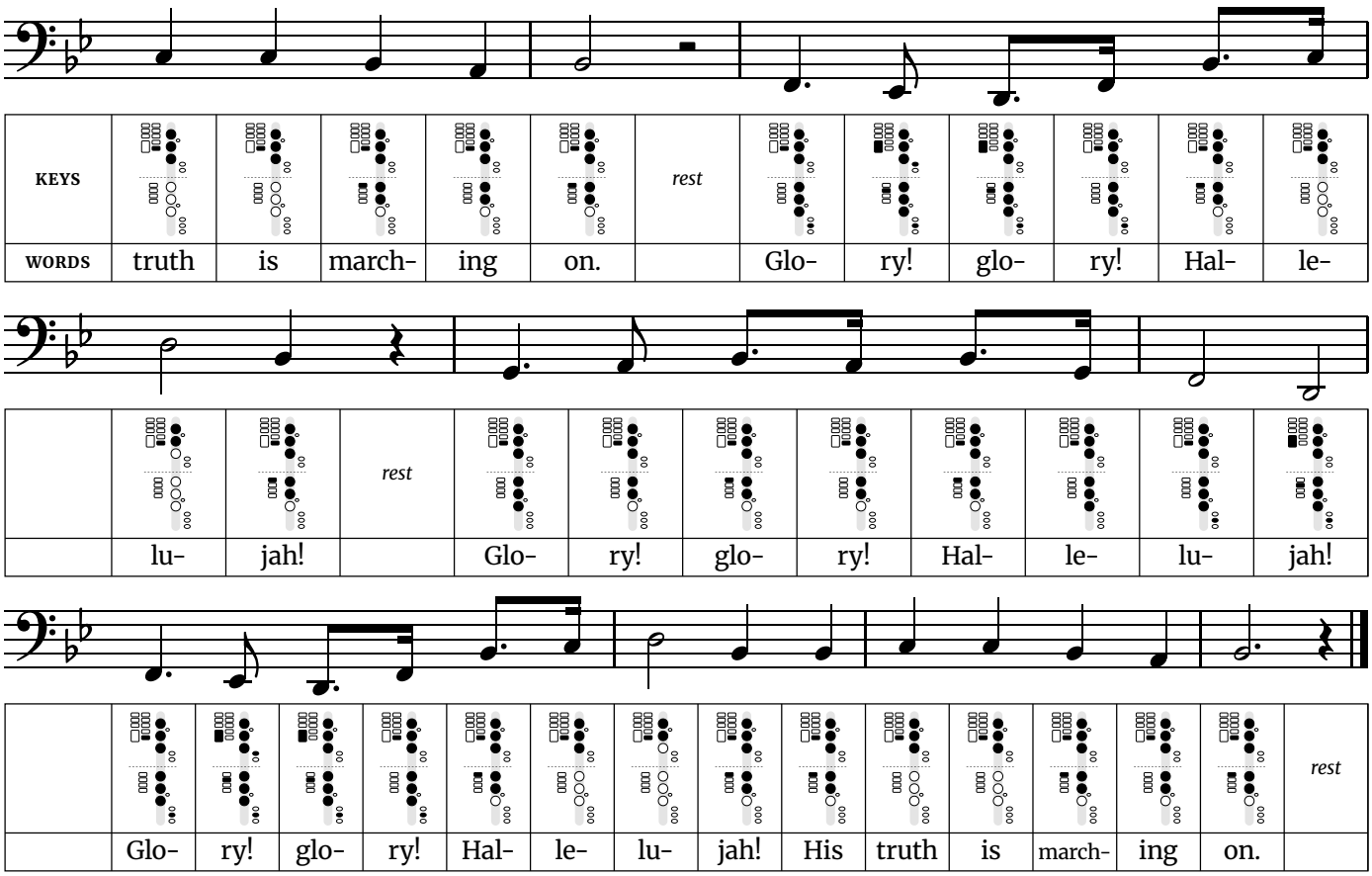


	tram-	pling	out	the	vin-	tage	where	the	grapes	of	wrath	are	stored;	He	hath	



	loosed	the	fate-	ful	light-	ning	of	His	ter-	ri-	ble	swift	sword;	His		

Battle Hymn of the Republic *(continued)*



Fingerings used in this song	
D2 – Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**A2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.
E♭2 – Left hand: thumb low D key, 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: thumb E key, 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**B♭2** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**C3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.

Tip: The verse is almost all dotted-eighth and sixteenth pairs. Make the long note of each pair three times as long as the short one, not a lazy swing. Then let the Glory, glory, hallelujah chorus broaden out.
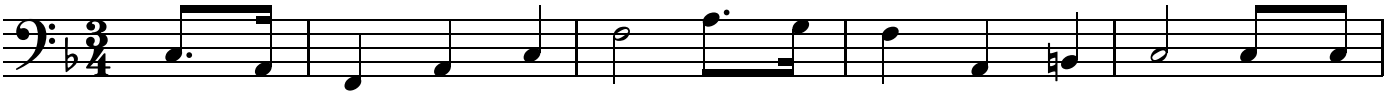
The busiest finger change is F2 to E♭2, where 4 keys or holes move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words: Julia Ward Howe (1861). Music: "John Brown's Body", from a camp-meeting tune credited to William Steffe (1856).
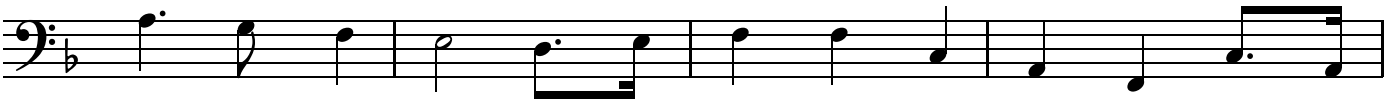
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The Star-Spangled Banner
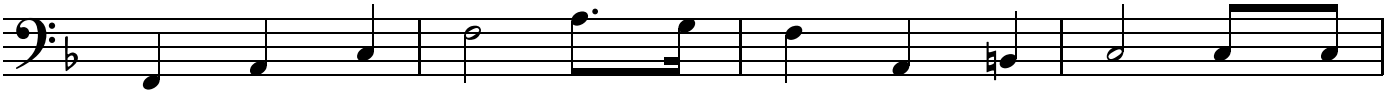
Harder · Written in F major (concert pitch) · 3/4 time · 11 notes, F2 to C4
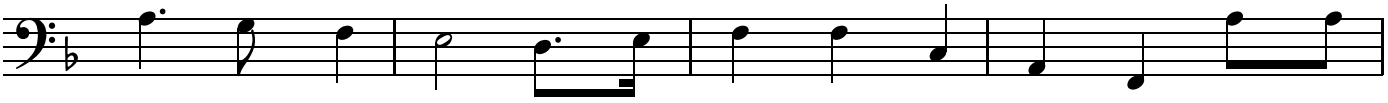


KEYS														
WORDS	O	–	say,	can	you	see,	by	the	dawn's	ear-	ly	light,	What	so



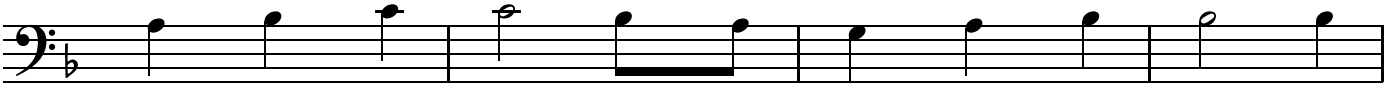
	proud-	ly	we	hailed	at	the	twi-	light's	last	gleam-	ing?	Whose	broad



	stripes	and	bright	stars,	through	the	per-	il-	ous	fight,	O'er	the

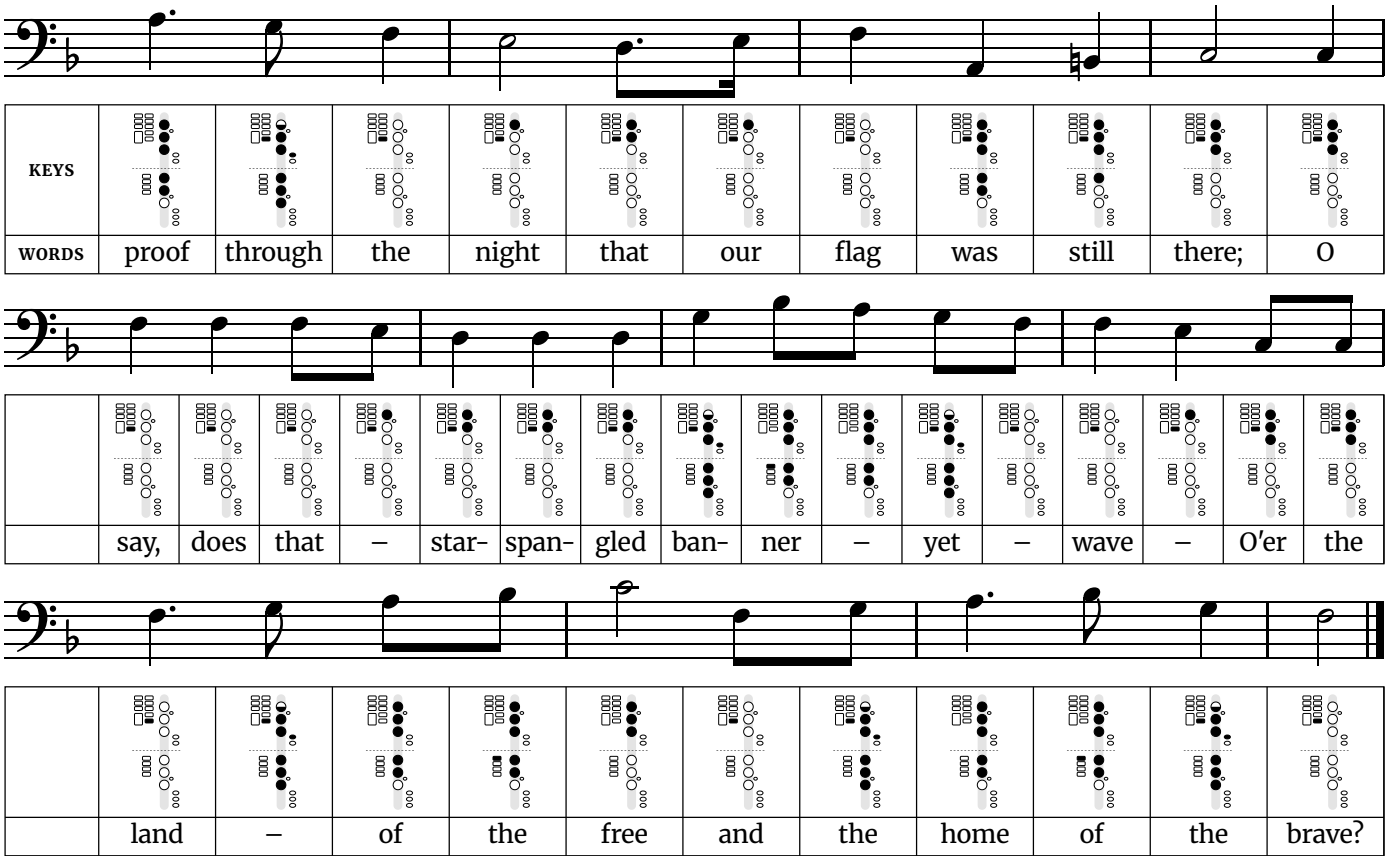


	ram-	parts	we	watched,	were	so	gal-	lant-	ly	stream-	ing?	And	the



	rock-	ets'	red	glare,	the	bombs	burst-	ing	in	air,	Gave

The Star-Spangled Banner *(continued)*



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**G3** – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
B2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1.	**A3** – Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.	**B♭3** – Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.
D3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.	**C4** – Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.
E3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1. Right hand: nothing down.	

Tip: The anthem covers the widest range of the patriotic songs, so practice the high part ("And the rockets' red glare") and the last phrase slowly before playing it straight through. Take a full breath before each of those phrases.

One note falls outside the key: B2 in line 1, fingered with whisper key, left first finger, left second finger, left third finger and right first finger.
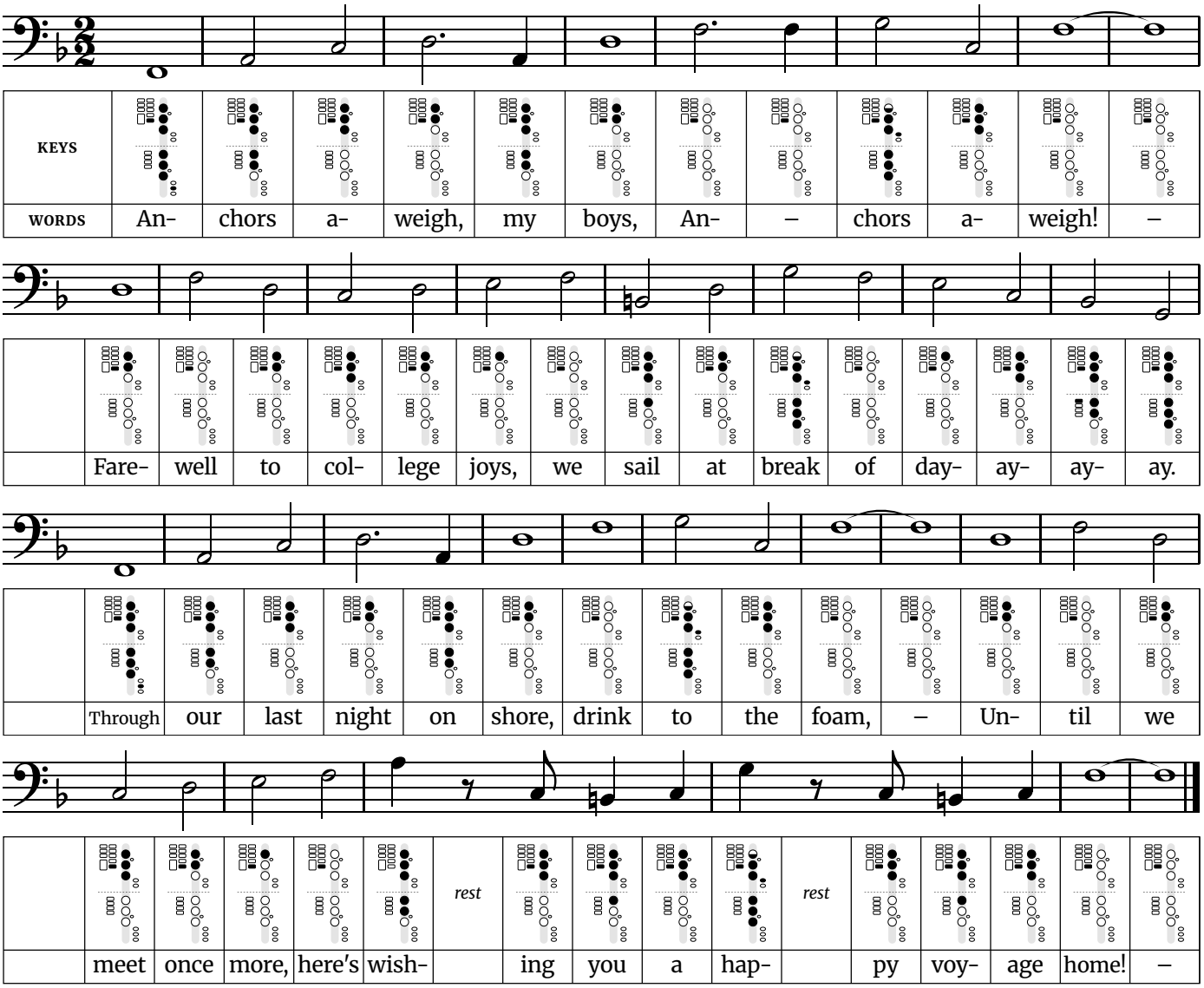
The widest jump is a tenth, up from F2 to A3 in line 4.

Words: Francis Scott Key (1814). Music: "To Anacreon in Heaven" by John Stafford Smith (c. 1773). Service version of 1918.

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Anchors Aweigh

Harder · Written in F major (concert pitch) · 2/2 time · 11 notes, F2 to A3



Fingerings used in this song	
F2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3, pinky F key.	**D3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2. Right hand: nothing down.
G2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.	**E3** – Left hand: whisper key, 1. Right hand: nothing down.
A2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.	**F3** – Left hand: whisper key. Right hand: nothing down.
B♭2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: thumb B♭ key, 1, 2.	**G3** – Left hand: whisper key, half-hole 1, 2, 3, pinky E♭ key. Right hand: 1, 2, 3.
B2 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1.	**A3** – Left hand: 1, 2, 3. Right hand: 1, 2.
C3 – Left hand: whisper key, 1, 2, 3. Right hand: nothing down.	

Tip: It is a march counted in two big beats per bar, so the whole notes are long. Hold “boys”, “aweigh” and “foam” for their full length. Then tongue the quick notes near the end (“here’s wishing you a happy voyage”) lightly.

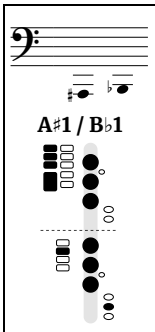
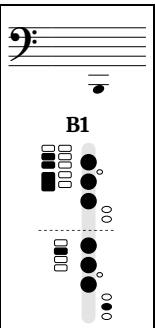
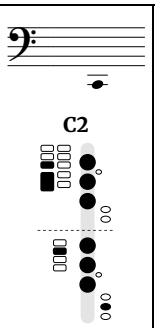
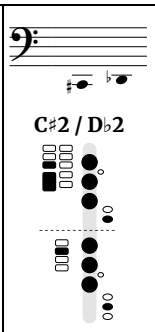
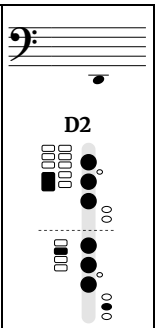
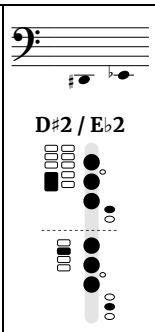
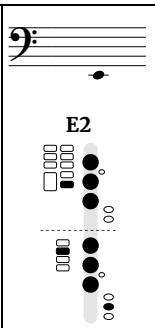
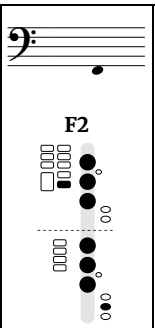
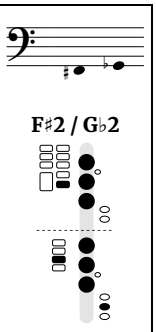
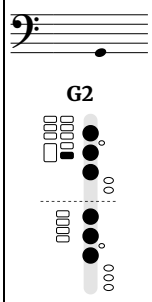
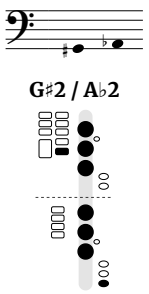
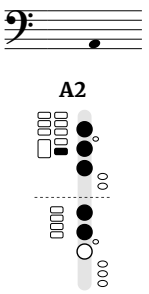
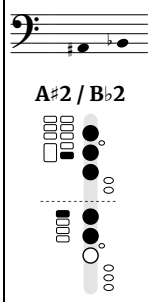
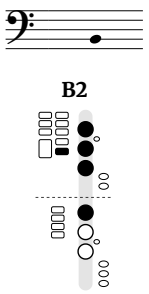
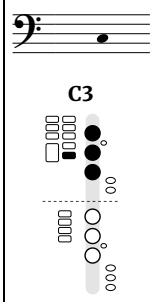
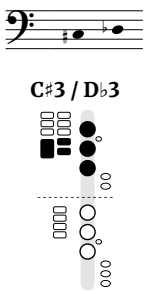
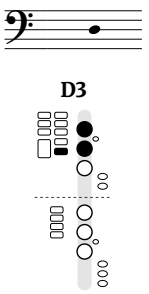
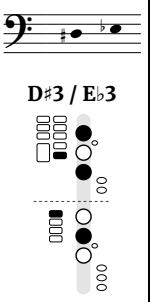
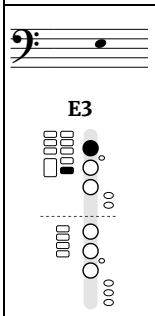
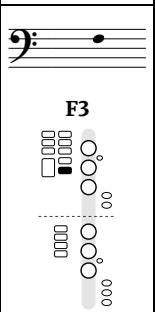
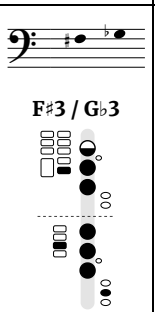
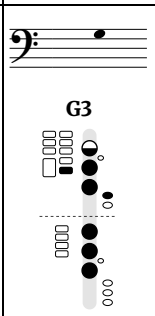
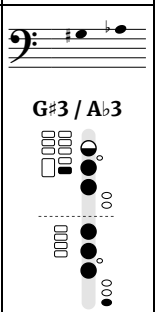
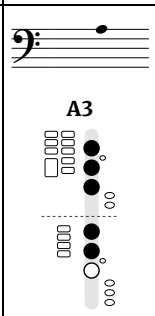
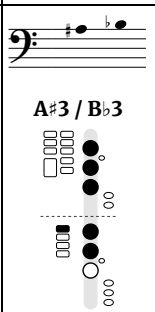
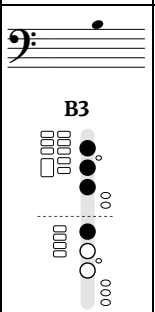
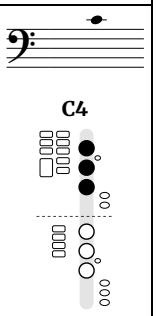
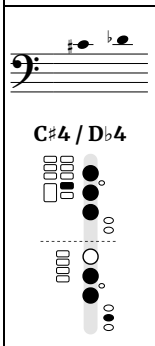
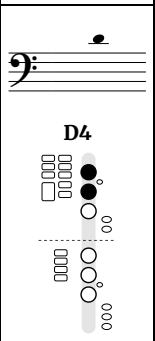
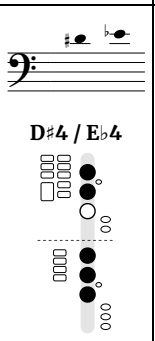
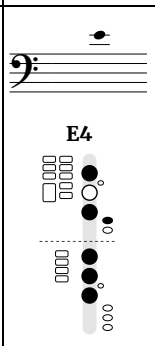
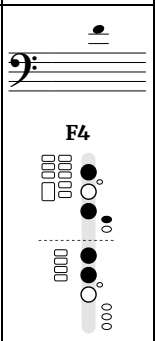
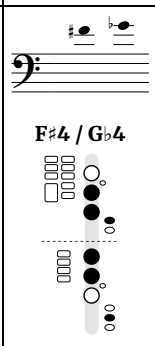
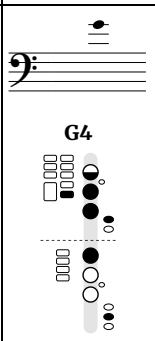
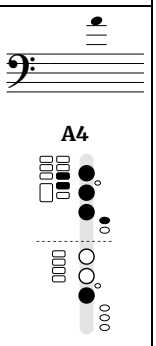
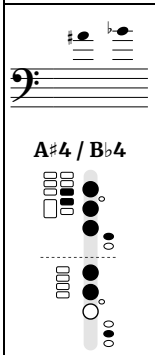
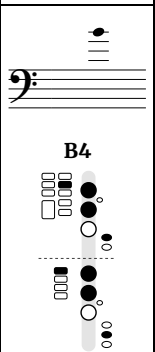
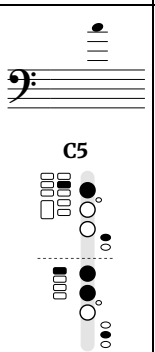
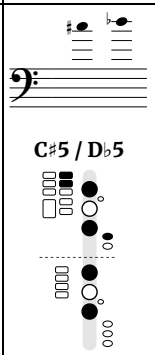
Music: Charles A. Zimmermann (1906). Words of this verse: 1926 revision of Alfred Hart Miles’s 1906 lyrics.

Practice Log

Date	What I practiced	Minutes

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Every Note at a Glance

 A♯1 / B♭1	 B1	 C2	 C♯2 / D♭2	 D2	 D♯2 / E♭2	 E2	 F2	 F♯2 / G♭2
 G2	 G♯2 / A♭2	 A2	 A♯2 / B♭2	 B2	 C3	 C♯3 / D♭3	 D3	 D♯3 / E♭3
 E3	 F3	 F♯3 / G♭3	 G3	 G♯3 / A♭3	 A3	 A♯3 / B♭3	 B3	 C4
 C♯4 / D♭4	 D4	 D♯4 / E♭4	 E4	 F4	 F♯4 / G♭4	 G4	 G♯4 / A♭4	 A4
 A♯4 / B♭4	 B4	 C5	 C♯5 / D♭5	D5	D♯5 / E♭5			

German-system (Heckel) bassoon.
Concert pitch, bass clef.

Black: press the key or cover the hole.
White: leave it up.

Half black: half-hole.