

## Care & Maintenance of Your Wooden Flute

Good care and maintenance of your wooden flute can ensure a lifetime of playing enjoyment.

### Assembling your flute

1. If the flute has tenon corks, make sure that they are smooth and well lubricated with cork grease. This will help to ensure a smooth and easy fit. **Never** use **any** grease on joints which don't have cork tenons!
2. Hold the body on the socket above the mechanism, and hold the headjoint below the lip-plate. Put the pieces together with a twisting (not rocking) motion.
3. Hold the footjoint on the metal below the mechanism and the body in the same place as before. Line up the footjoint so that it goes onto the body straight and not at an angle.

**Tip** Never put your finger in the embouchure hole to lift the headjoint out of the case. This is a critical area, and needs to be protected.

**Repairer's Tip** Tight or loose-fitting joints can lead to other problems. If the joints on your flute are too tight or too loose, you should take your flute to a specialist repair technician – it shouldn't cost much and will probably save you money.

### Swabbing the inside of your flute

We recommend using a silk pullthrough to remove the condensation from the inside of a wooden flute. You can extend the life of the pads, mechanism and headjoint cork and reduce instrument maintenance by swabbing out your flute after each use. To help with sticky pads, you can try using a "Pad Saver". We don't recommend the use of cigarette papers, as these can fray the pads. Fingerprints should be removed from the mechanism by using a fine microfibre polishing cloth. Do not use silver cloths or silver polish on a wood flute.

### Storing your wood flute

Your instrument is best stored in its case when you are not using it. Keep your case clean, and do not store cleaning accessories inside the case. Protect your flute from temperature extremes, especially when you are going from a warm building to cold temperatures: the quick contraction that can occur may lead to cracks in the wood. We recommend that you insulate your flute case (e.g. keep it inside a lined case cover and/or gig bag) when moving between temperature extremes. Store your flute in a safe place where the temperature is stable: the temperature can change rapidly next to a window or radiator, for example.

Warm up the headjoint with your hands before blowing into the embouchure hole. This also helps to prevent cracking.

### "Playing in" a new wood flute

To ensure a wooden flute's long life, it should be properly "played in". For the first couple of months, limit your playing to 20 minutes at a time, with breaks of at least 4 hours. After the first two months, gradually increase length of playing sessions; after six months you can consider it "played in".

### Recommendations for maintenance

Your flute should be cleaned and adjusted approximately once a year by a qualified repair technician.

