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### To submit your thoughts or ideas:

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Each month, check out the games on our  
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[www.classykeys.net](http://www.classykeys.net)

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## Questions and Answers

1. How many people are in an orchestra?

The numbers vary depending on the work that is being played. There can be up to 100 people in an orchestra. A chamber orchestra has up to 50 people. The full size orchestra is called a symphony orchestra or Philharmonic Orchestra.

When I was a little girl, I thought that Phil owned that harmonic orchestra up in Boston. I was very glad it was harmonic too. And I thought that Phil only owned one, so I was quite confused when I found out that there was one in London too.

2. What is Classical music?

It is a particular period of time in the history of music. This time period is from 1750 to 1820. A few composers of the time period are Hayden, Mozart, and Beethoven. It was melodic and elegant, and written oftentimes for dances. Music prior to the Classical Era was of a more heavy, formal nature.

If you have a question you would like answered by Catherine please email her at:  
[MissCathy@classykeys.net](mailto:MissCathy@classykeys.net)

## Congratulations to our Contest Winners

Thank you for all those entries, and keep on sending in your work. You all did GREAT!!!

The elementary school age winner is Erica with the following lyrics sung to the tune of “Mary Had A Little Lamb”.

**Turkey Day is here again, here again, here again,  
Pumpkin pie and apple too  
Yummy in my tummy.**

Erica is six years old, and lives in Florida.

The middle school aged winner is Tara with the following lyrics sung to the tune of “Hot Cross Buns”.

**Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving,  
I love turkey, I love pie on  
Thanksgiving.**

Tara is 12 years old, and lives in New Jersey.

Thank you, everyone, and congratulations to **Erica** and **Tara**.



## Contest

Write a Christmas or Hanukkah song. Please tell which holiday your song is for. If you are the winner, your song will be recorded and placed on the website where everyone can hear it.

By entering you give permission for The Classy Keys Music Note to publish both in the magazine and on the website your entries. You keep your ownership of the works. You can enter two songs only. Please tell your age and what state you live in.

This contest deadline is November 28, 2008.

Have fun creating!!!

## Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

### A Bit About Loud Noises

By Catherine Imbert

Did you have fun with your pots and pans band last month? I sure hope so. I enjoyed that rhythm band as a little one although the big drums at parades hurt my ears.

Often times loud noises are scary, but sometimes it is a hurt to the ears. Many times children who shy away from loud noises have a good ear for music. Watch your child and see if they are holding their ears. It might just be that they have a good ear.

This month on page 6 there is a turkey for you to color. Have fun coloring.



**This magazine is a monthly magazine that can be found on The Classy Keys website. If you have any suggestions, questions, or interesting musical stories to tell our readers, please contact us at:**

[themusicnote@classykeys.net](mailto:themusicnote@classykeys.net)



## Elementary School Students

### The Fife and Drum

By Catherine Imbert

Fifers and drummers were important in the military beginning in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Fifers and drummers tended to be boys between the ages of 10 and 18. Fifes and drums served as signal instruments.

There have been times in history when the fife was replaced by similar instruments, but the high shrill sound of the fife carries in the field of battle making it an excellent choice to relay the commanders orders to the soldiers.

The snare drum belongs to the oldest instrumental family. The snare and bass drums were the drums used most often by the militias.





## Middle and High School Students

### Schools

By Catherine Imbert

Renusha is swamped with school work this month, so I will take this opportunity to talk with you. Both Renusha and I welcome your topics, thoughts, and ideas.

Please contact us at: [MissCathy@classykeys.net](mailto:MissCathy@classykeys.net) or [Renusha@classykeys.net](mailto:Renusha@classykeys.net)

Did you know that the term High School originated in Scotland?

What is called 'High School' differs in each country and can also differ from state or province in the same country.

**In Scotland** children start primary school between the ages of 4 and 5, depending on when their birthday is. A student remains in primary school for seven years.

Secondary school (high school) is 6 years. The student must attend for 4 years. Students take the Standard Grade exams at the age of 15 or 16. There are eight subjects: English, Math, a foreign language or Gaelic, Science, and a Social Subject.

**In Taiwan** the secondary education includes middle school, high school, vocational school, and military school.

After Elementary School **in Germany** there are three options for schooling: The Hauptschule which is a trade school, the Realschule which is for students going into a profession, and the Gymnasium which goes up to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade and prepares students for college.

**Here's something to think about:** If you could design a school system what would it be like, think about what is right and wrong with the school system you are in, you may be the one who fixes the problems in the near future.

## Discovery

The most accepted story of the first Thanksgiving is that Thanksgiving took place in Plymouth Colony in what is now Massachusetts in 1621.

Find out the answers to these questions and then see how many of your family and friends know the answers.

1. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, what is the largest pumpkin pie ever baked?
2. The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade took place in what year and in what city?
3. In what year did Congress (USA) finally make Thanksgiving Day an official national holiday?



### Answers:

1. The pumpkin pie weighed 2,020 pounds and was just over 12 feet long.
2. The year was 1924 and it took place in New York City.
3. 1941.

**Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!!!**



## Bob's Band Room

By Bob Cooper

The clarinet gets a bum rap, in my opinion. Like Rodney Dangerfield, it gets "no respect", or at least not the respect it deserves. Its role in the band is as important as that of the violin in the orchestra, and where would the orchestra be without violins? I think the reason the clarinet gets overlooked as a really cool instrument is because it has a split personality; actually, three personalities, or three voices. We call these voices registers, and they are like three different instruments. When the clarinet plays its lowest register, it is soft, hooty, and mysterious. Then, when it plays in its regular voice, it can be quite loud, as loud as the trumpet! (the name clarinet comes from the Italian 'clarino' a type of trumpet). Then, if it really wants to get attention, it can, in the hands of a really skilled player, play notes as high as the highest piccolo player. I have a couple of cats at my house, and sometimes they remind me of the of the clarinet and its different personalities. They can be so quiet and calm, but just as suddenly, they can jump up and chase each other at a hundred miles an hour! The Russian composer, Sergie Prokofiev wrote a composition called "Peter and The Wolf", and the instrument he chose to represent the cat in his composition was - you guessed it - the clarinet.

There were over a dozen kinds of clarinets in use at the beginning of the 20th century, but only 5 or 6 of them are in common use today. The most common one is the Bb soprano clarinet, the one jazz players called the "licorice stick" (see, no respect!) The fingering system we use today is called the Boehm system, even though Theobold Boehm invented a fingering system for flutes and didn't have anything to do with clarinets; Hyacinthe Klose and Auguste Buffet actually invented the system of key rings and duplicated keys that we use today; I suppose putting their names on their invention would have required too much respect. Did I mention that I don't think the clarinet gets enough respect?

When you open your case and get your instrument out, you should first apply cork grease to each cork joint. The best way is to dab a chunk of grease on each cork, and use your fingers to spread it around. Then, get out your reed and place it in your mouth to begin soaking it ; it needs to be fully wet to play. Then, starting with the two body parts, hold each body part by the far ends, and push the parts together with a slight twisting motion. Watch out for the two metal parts that stick out from each end; they are the bridge key mechanism, and they have to line up correctly. Also, if they get bent, your instrument will have a major bellyache!

Next, add the bell and the barrel, being careful not to hold the body on the keys. Last, place the mouthpiece on the horn, and add the reed and ligature. When you are through, be sure to swab out the inside of the instrument or use a pad saver device to keep the inside of the horn dry. To make reeds last longer, you should rotate at least two reeds as follows: number two reeds number 1 and number 2. Then play the number 1 reed for two or three days, then put it away and play the number 2 reed for a few days. By doing so, each reed has a chance to dry out, and will stay stronger and last longer.

Another word about reeds: If you are a new player, you should be setting a goal to play of a stiffer reed than you started out playing. If you are playing on a 2 1/2 now, make a goal to be playing on a #3 in 6 months, and a 3 1/2 by next year. Your tone, intonation and range will benefit. Reeds go all the way up to #5+!

I hope you find these bits of information helpful and entertaining. I want to thank Miss Cathy for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you, and welcome you to visit me at Total Entertainment for all your Brass and Reed instrument needs.





