

WOODWIND INSTRUMENT HISTORY

A Chronological Evolution of Wind Design

Prehistoric Times **Bone Flutes**

Early humans utilized hollowed animal bones with finger holes, marking the birth of controlled pitch.

14th - 16th Century **The Renaissance Consorts**

Rise of the Crumhorn, Shawm, and Recorder. Instruments were designed in families of varying sizes to mimic vocal ranges.

c. 1670 - 1700 **The Baroque Oboe & Flute**

Jean Hotteterre and French makers refine the Shawm into the Oboe and transition the Flute from one-piece to three-piece construction.

c. 1700 - 1750 **The Clarinet**

Johann Christoph Denner adds the register key to the Chalumeau, creating the modern Clarinet.

1832 - 1847 **Boehm System Revolution**

Theobald Boehm perfects the ring-key system and cylindrical bore for the flute, later influencing clarinet and saxophone design.

1846 **The Saxophone**

Adolphe Sax patents a brass-bodied woodwind, bridging the gap between orchestral reeds and brass power.

Modern Era
Electronic & Synthetic Integration

Development of carbon-fiber bodies, synthetic reeds, and EWI (Electronic Wind Instruments).