

# Improvisation as a Means for Teaching Beginning Recorder

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Dr. Paul Cribari  
[pcribari@msn.com](mailto:pcribari@msn.com)  
paulcribari.com

## Introductory Activities:

### Prepping the breath

- Ping Pong Balls- and Bendy Straws
  - Air Pipes – Can you make the ball gently spin?
  - Tabletop/drum head game – How long can you keep the ball on the drum?
- Birthday Candles vs. Fogging Over a Window

### Prepping Posture and Grip

- “Quiet Coyote”
- Standing and moving in the space

### Prepping Notation

- Melodic Outlines
- Fingering Charts
  - Ping Pong ball halves for fingering chart

## Questions to Consider

- Students
  - Can you hear yourself?
  - Can you feel the holes?
  - Do you feel like you’re blowing, or is the air “falling out of your mouth?”
  - Are your elbows touching anything?
  - Do you know the name of the note you are playing?
- Teacher
  - How can you get small groups of children to play (instead of the whole class)?
  - Does your accompaniment model the artistry you are asking of the kids?
  - Is the learning technical or musical?

# Moon

Poem: Anonymous Japanese  
Music: Paul Cribari

V   
SR   
GL   
AM/SM   
BM/BX 

V   
SR   
GL   
AM/SM   
BM/BX 

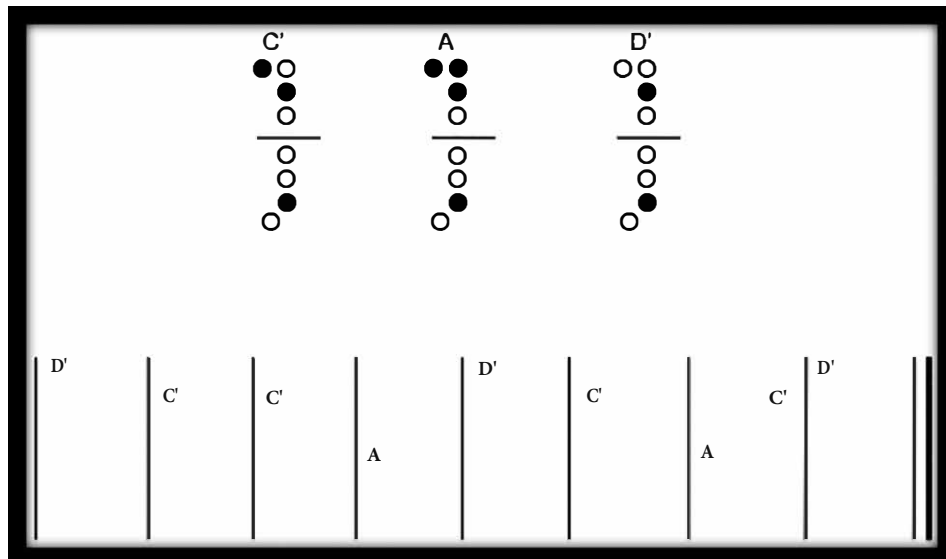


Diagram showing fingerings for chords C', A, and D' on a guitar. Each chord is represented by a vertical line with circles indicating finger positions (black for fretted, white for open). Below the diagrams is a sequence of vertical lines representing the chord progression: D', C', C', A, D', C', A, C', D'.

Melodic Outlines for Recorder Improvisation  
 Created by Paul Cribari

The first diagram shows two fingering charts. The first chart is for C', with fingerings: top hole closed, second hole open, third hole closed, fourth hole open, fifth hole open, sixth hole closed, seventh hole closed. The second chart is for A, with fingerings: top hole closed, second hole closed, third hole closed, fourth hole open, fifth hole open, sixth hole closed, seventh hole closed. Below these are two melodic outlines. The first outline consists of vertical lines for C' and A, alternating: C' | A | C' | A | C' | A | C' | A. The second outline consists of vertical lines for C' and A, alternating: C' | A | C' | A | C' | A | C' | A.

The second diagram shows three fingering charts. The first chart is for C', with fingerings: top hole closed, second hole open, third hole closed, fourth hole open, fifth hole open, sixth hole closed, seventh hole closed. The second chart is for A, with fingerings: top hole closed, second hole closed, third hole closed, fourth hole open, fifth hole open, sixth hole closed, seventh hole closed. The third chart is for D', with fingerings: top hole open, second hole closed, third hole closed, fourth hole open, fifth hole open, sixth hole closed, seventh hole closed. Below these are two melodic outlines. The first outline consists of vertical lines for C', D', and A, alternating: C' | D' | C' | A | C' | D' | C' | A. The second outline consists of vertical lines for C', D', and A, alternating: C' | D' | C' | A | C' | D' | C' | A.

