

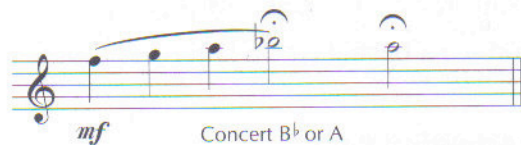
## FLUTE/PICCOLO TUNING GUIDE

### Procedures for Tuning the Instrument

1. Warm up thoroughly before tuning.
2. Tune at a mezzo-forte dynamic level and do not use vibrato.
3. Tune to a reliable frequency (electronic tuner, etc.) using the recommended tuning note(s) below.
4. Do not humor the tuning note; play it straight. Adjust the head joint if the pitch is sharp or flat.

### BASIC TUNING NOTE(S)

Tuning pitches are indicated with half notes; quarter note pitches are used to help "groove" the tuning note by approaching it from below.



*Tuning Mechanism:* Head Joint. Pull out the head joint if the pitch is sharp; push it in if the pitch is flat.

*Note:* The head joint has an adjustable tuning plug at the closed end. The exact location of this plug is critical for good tuning and intonation. To check the placement of the plug, carefully insert the bottom end of the cleaning rod into the open end of the head joint until it touches the stopper. The etched line on the cleaning rod should appear exactly in the center of the tone hole.

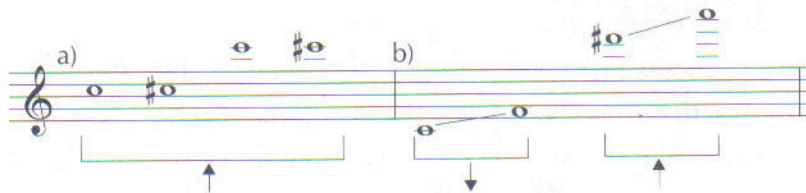


If the plug needs to be moved outward (away from the open end), tighten down on the threaded cap. To move the plug toward the open end, loosen the cap and push in. It is best to seek professional guidance when adjusting the tuning plug. Once the plug is properly adjusted, it should not be moved.

### Techniques for Adjusting Pitches While Playing

1. Rolling the Tone Hole
2. Alternate Fingerings
3. Combinations of the Above

### INHERENT INTONATION FLAWS\*



- a) These notes are usually sharp, especially the C sharps. Roll the tone hole inward to lower the pitches.
- b) The low register tends to be flat and the high register tends to be sharp. For the low notes roll the tone hole outward to counteract the tendency to play flat. For the high notes try alternate fingerings or roll the tone hole inward.

*The primary causes of poor intonation in extreme register playing on flute and piccolo are inadequate breath support, a poorly formed embouchure, and poor listening habits.*

\*Arrows pointing up indicate that the notes tend to be sharp; arrows pointing down indicate that the notes tend to be flat.