

University of Toronto Music Library



Fisher flute collection

CA OTUFM 46

Rebecca Shaw, Music Library Archivist, 2019

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Date range: [ca. 1760 – ca. 1905]

Extent: 22 flutes

Collection consists of late-eighteenth, nineteenth, and early-twentieth century flutes, predominantly made by various builders and companies in London, England, as well as two from Paris, one from France, and one from Bayreuth, Germany. The collection covers the mechanization and modernization of the flute, including the addition of holes and keys, and the move from wood to metal for the body of the flute.

Source of acquisition: A gift in 1973 to the University of Toronto Library by Sidney Fisher included 21 historical flutes, and a complementary collection of eighteenth-century flute solo and chamber music. These albums contained flute duets and trios by Bononcini and Corelli, as well as by English composers such as James Paisible and William Croft. A British navy band flute (Item 22) was donated by Dr. S. Bulley and added to the collection.

Ident.	Title	Date	Description
1	One-key boxwood flute with ivory mounts : George Goulding, London	[ca. 1760]	Item is a flute, made by George Goulding of London, England, with a silver square-ended D-sharp key. Its typical eighteenth-century small embouchure and finger holes produce a sweet and delicate tone. This type of flute was first seen in about 1672 on the European continent, about 1705 in England, and was in general use until 1780.
2	Four-key boxwood flute with ivory mounts : Richard Potter, London	[ca. 1790]	Item is a flute, made by Richard Potter of London, with sterling-silver keys with pewter plug ends. The head-joint and barrel are metal-lined, with a tuning slide between them.
3	Four-key boxwood flute with ivory mounts : D'Almaine & Co., London	[ca. 1834-1836]	Item is a flute, made by D'Almaine & Co. in London, with sterling-silver square-ended keys, mounted on blocks.
4	Five-key boxwood flute in F with ivory mounts : Henry Potter, London	[ca. 1850]	Item is a flute, made by Henry Potter of London, with brass keys, mounted in blocks. This is a typical band flute from the period.
5	Six-key boxwood flute with ivory mounts : Isaac Willis, London	[ca. 1820]	Item is a flute, made by Isaac Willis of London, with sterling-silver keys, the top four of which have square ends and the lower two of which have pewter plug ends.
6	Eight-key boxwood flute with ivory mounts : Thomas Prowse, London	[ca. 1815]	Item is a flute, made by Thomas Prowse of London, with sterling-silver keys with salt-spoon style ends and decorative turning on the head-joint and ends. This is an early model Nicholson flute.

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| 7 | Eight-key boxwood flute with ivory mounts : William Henry Potter, London | [ca. 1810] | Item is a flute, made by William Henry Potter in London, with sterling-silver keys with pewter plug ends. |
| 8 | Eight-key cocuswood flute with wide sterling-silver bands : Thomas Prowse, London | [ca. 1825] | Item is a flute, made by Thomas Prowse in London. The flute has sterling-silver keys with salt-spoon style ends, mounted on blocks. It is a brilliant example of the large-holed flute developed by the great English flutist Charles Nicholson Jr. The historical importance of this model is that Theodore Boehm heard Nicholson playing it during a visit to England in 1831. The epoch-making Boehm flute universally used today was the result. |
| 9 | Eight-key cocuswood flute with wide sterling-silver bands : Rudall and Rose, London | [ca. 1840] | Item is a flute, made by Rudall and Rose in London, with sterling-silver keys with salt-spoon style ends, except for the C and C-sharp keys, which have pewter plugs. The flute is of particular interest in having the 1832 patent head-joint. |
| 10 | Conical Boehm-style flute in African blackwood : Couesnon, Paris | [ca. 1880] | Item is a flute, made by Couesnon in Paris, with German-silver bands and keywork. Boehm's research led in 1832 to his conical flute, fully vented and with large holes. It is largely regarded as "the greatest landmark of all in the modern history of woodwind design." This is the 1832 flute with the addition of the Briccialdi thumb key. |
| 11 | Boehm-system rosewood flute : Langlois, London | [ca. 1890] | Item is a flute, made by Langlois in London, with plated brass keys and bands. The flute is an example of Boehm's final model of 1846, with a cylindrical bore and parabolic head-joint. |
| 12 | Ten-key cocuswood flute : Abel Siccama, London | [ca. 1850] | Item is a flute, designed by Abel Siccama and made in London, with sterling-silver bands and keys with adjustable pad sockets, except for the C and C-sharp keys, which have pewter plugs. The A and E holes are out of direct reach of the fingers, and are covered by keys. |
| 13 | Sterling-silver Carte 1851 Patent flute : Rudall, Rose, Carte and Co., London | [ca. 1855] | Item is a flute, made by Rudall, Rose, Cart and Co. in London, with sterling-silver keywork. This model won the prize medal at the 1851 exhibition. |
| 14 | Sterling-silver Old Model flute : Rudall, Rose, Carte and Co., London | [ca. 1855] | Item is a flute, made by Rudall, Rose, Cart and Co. in London, with sterling-silver keywork. This model has the same keys as the old eight-key flute. |

15	Cocuswood Carte 1867 System flute : Rudall, Rose, Carte and Co., London	[ca. 1865]	Item is a flute, made by Rudall, Rose, Cart and Co. in London, with sterling-silver keywork and head lining. The flute was described as "An excellent design, in some ways technically superior to the Boehm." This flute has an extra trill key for C to C-sharp and G to G-sharp.
16	Eight-key cocuswood flute : Alexander Liddle, London	[ca. 1855]	Item is a flute, made by Alexander Liddle in London, with German-silver bands and block-mounted keywork. This is a version of Carte's silver "Old Model," and brought the advantages of cylindrical bore to players of the old eight-key flute.
17	Cocuswood Pratten-system flute : [Boosey, London]	[ca. 1850]	Item is a flute, likely made by Boosey in London, with German-silver bands and keywork mounted on pillars. Pratten, a celebrated English flutist, developed this system in 1852, and in 1856 Boosey started to make Pratten flutes. This flute has a cylindrical bore with large holes all covered, and is fingered like the eight-keyed flute.
18	Ten-key flute in plated brass : France	[ca. 1885]	Item is a flute, made in France, with built-up embouchure and finger holes. All of the holes are small, except those in the foot-joint. The fingering is the same as the old conical-bored eight-key flute, plus a C and D trill key and an extra vent for F.
19	Ten-key African blackwood flute with ivory head-joint : Stengel, Bayreuth	[ca. 1890]	Item is a flute, made by Stengel in Bayreuth, with German-silver bands and keywork. This is an ultra-conservative conical-bore model which retains the eighteenth-century fingering, and has finger holes of the small pre-Nicholson type, and a long foot-joint to B. This model was in use for a century after Boehm introduced his cylindrical-bore model, and Wagner preferred it. Such flutes were listed by the German maker Heckel as late as 1931.
20	Twelve-key African blackwood flute with ivory head-joint : [London]	[ca. 1890]	Item is a flute, probably made in London, with German-silver bands and keywork. The flute has a conical bore with small pre-Nicholson holes and eighteenth-century fingering. Its lowest note is B.
21	Silver-plated brass Borne-Julliot system flute : Djalma Julliot, Paris	[ca. 1905]	Item is a flute, made by Djalma Julliot in Paris. This is Boehm's 1847 model with four additional keys, the latest patent improvements attempted to the standard Boehm flute, which 25 years later had become almost universally used.
22	British Navy band flute	[ca. 1850]	