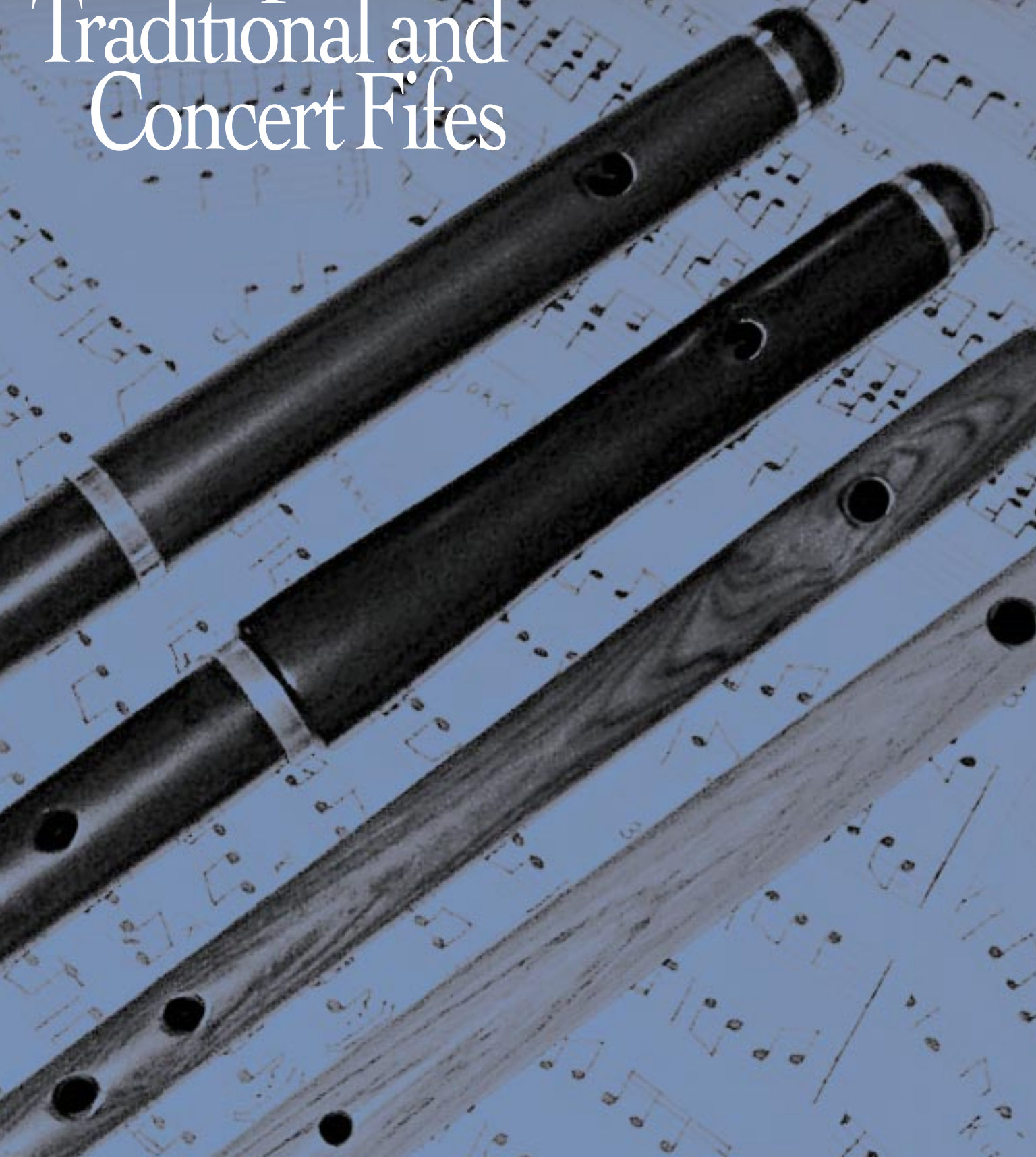




# Cooperman Traditional and Concert Fifes



**D**uring the Renaissance the fife was commonly known as the Swiss Pipe due to its widespread use by the Swiss Infantry, although it was in common use as a martial signal instrument throughout Europe from the 14th century onward. In the 18th century fifers and drummers were often required, in addition to their indispensable military duties, to provide music for both formal and informal dancing. Manuals for the fife containing hundreds of popular airs first appeared in America in the late 18th and early 19th centuries; the tunes were often of folk origin, and Celtic influences were especially well represented. Although the fife played an important role in the military during the American Civil War, this instrument had long since found its home in civilian life. Today the fife is an instrument enjoyed equally by corps playing traditional marching tunes, folk artists playing music representing a



wide variety of cultural influences, and woodwind artists playing complex early music and modern arrangements.

Our fife shop uses only the finest instrument grade grenadilla and rosewood to handcraft professional model Cooperman fifes, and brings the same level of commitment to quality to our student models in persimmon and FDA approved plastic.

In its traditional form the fife is made of a single piece of wood with a simple cylindrical bore and six tone holes, with no keys; some notes of the chromatic scale require half-hole fingerings. In its contemporary form, the fife is made in two pieces with a profiled bore and 10 tone holes, with no keys; the added register notes eliminate the need for half-hole fingerings. Fifes are traditionally named for the note that sounds when the first fingering on the chart is played; the chart for all fifes is written with this note, low D, all fingers down. The most popular and traditional key is Folk Bb, so that Bb sounds when this low D is fingered. This "Folk Bb" is equivalent to a "Concert Ab"; that is, if the key of the fife were named as one would name the key of a flute, it would be called an Ab fife.

## NEW Concert Fifes

**T**hese contemporary style Concert Fifes are designed with a piccolo style bore and up to 10 tone holes, providing for an improvement in intonation and ease of play of the chromatic notes, relative to the Traditional Model fifes. While a six hole fife will play every note that a ten hole fife will, the addition of the extra holes allows the fifer to play without half-hole fingerings. All fifes are crafted of the finest instrument grade exotic hardwoods, with sterling silver rings. Each fife is provided with a wooden slider-lid box along with a cleaning stick and cork grease.

### Cooperman Concert Fifes

The Cooperman Concert fife is known for its mellow low register and very powerful upper register. We make this model in both grenadilla and rosewood.

**Six Hole Model** The fife has the traditional 6 tone holes, with several notes of the chromatic scale requiring the use of half-holes.

**Ten Hole Model** The Cooperman Concert fife features the 6 main tone holes with 2 pinky register holes and 2 thumb register holes.

### Cooperman McDonagh Fifes

The McDonagh fife was developed in New York by John McDonagh over 40 years ago, and is a widely popular instrument. It differs from the Cooperman Concert fife primarily in the design of the bore and the placement of the finger holes. We are honored to have Mr. McDonagh's support in bringing this classic fife back to the marketplace. We make this model in grenadilla.

**Six Hole Model** The fife has the traditional 6 tone holes, with several notes of the chromatic scale requiring the use of half-holes.

**Ten Hole Model** The McDonagh model fife features the 6 main tone holes, one of which is doubled with a register hole, plus 2 pinky register holes and 1 thumb register hole.



*Cooperman Two Piece Concert Model Bb 6-hole*

*Cooperman Two Piece Concert Model Bb 10-hole*

*Cooperman McDonagh Model Bb 6-hole*

*Cooperman McDonagh Model Bb 10-hole*

# Traditional Fifes

**C**ooperman Traditional fifes follow the traditional and historic form of the instrument. These fifes are made of a single piece of wood with a simple cylindrical bore and six tone holes; several notes of the chromatic scale require half holes. The visual design of our Traditional model wood fife is patterned on museum pieces, and this simple shape with the swell at the mouth hole and a soft taper to the foot is appropriate for 18th and 19th century representations. The Traditional model fife is appealing for its marvelous performance as a bright, loud field instrument with a powerful upper register, as well as its suitability for early music and historical reenactment performances.

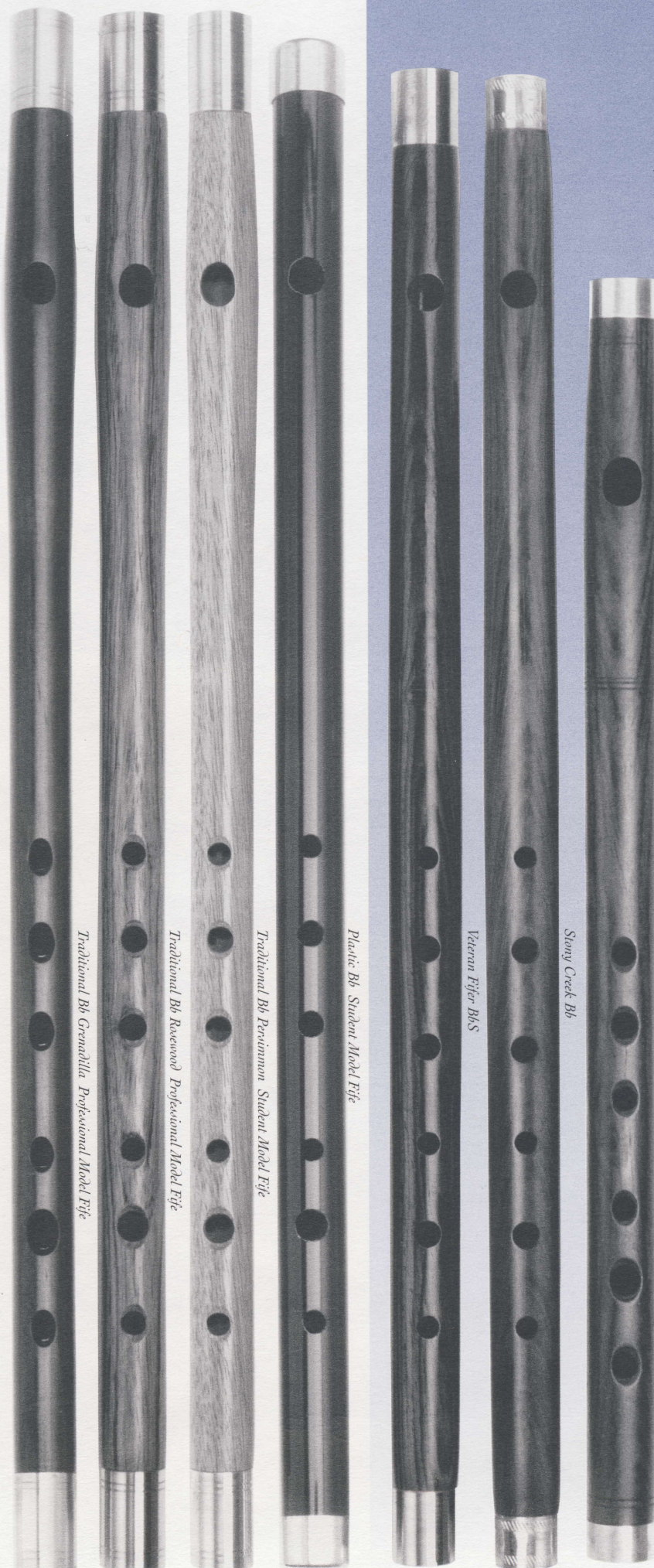
## Cooperman Traditional Fifes, Professional Models

We make our Traditional Professional models of the finest instrument grade rosewood and grenadilla. Each fife is provided with a wooden sliderlid box along with a cleaning stick and cork grease.

## Cooperman Traditional Fifes, Student Models

We make Student Model fifes in both persimmon wood and black FDA approved plastic.

The persimmon wood fife is a visual match in shape to the Professional Models, with the wood very light brown to blonde in color, as compared to the warm red/brown of the rosewood or the striking black/brown of the grenadilla. Persimmon fifes are packaged in a folding box; plastic fifes are packaged in a poly bag.



*Traditional Bb Grenadilla Professional Model Fife*

*Traditional Bb Rosewood Professional Model Fife*

*Traditional Bb Persimmon Student Model Fife*

*Plastic Bb Student Model Fife*

*Veteran Fifer BbS*

*Stony Creek Bb*

*French D Ceechule*

# Specialty Fifes

**W**e recommend either the Traditional Model or the Concert Model fife for almost all purposes, as these are the instruments that have the best possible intonation given the design limitations imposed by the nature of a fife. For those who wish to portray certain eras with a particular focus, or who wish to match a new fife in with existing older model fifes, we have created this group of "specialty fifes". A few of these fifes are described as "small bore". The small bore fifes are easy to play, with the high register particularly accessible, but the small bore also leads to the intonation problems that are universal in this type of fife, with a sharpening of the pitch.

## Firth, Pond & Co. 19th Century Model Fife

**We regret that this fife is out of stock at this time**

## Veteran Fifer Model and Stony Creek Model

These fifes are small bore instruments suitable for playing with the old Ferrary fifes, Folk Bb.

## 18th Century French D Model Fife

This fife is interpreted from print sources and images of original instruments. The pitch is somewhat sharp Folk D (concert C).

## 18th Century Old Pitch Bb Model Fife

This fife is similar to our Traditional Fife, but pitched to match an 18th century antique, which is quite sharp to the nominal Folk Bb.

## The Fife for Educators

**T**he American fife & drum corps has a public music tradition deeply rooted in the history and cultures of the Americas and Europe. Fife and drum corps march each year in line with today's best marching bands in such prestigious parades as the Rose Bowl Parade, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and Inaugural Parades, and receive ovations from the crowds. Professionally, the 3rd US Infantry Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps performs at the White House for dignitaries and heads of state from all over the world, and the Fifes & Drums of Colonial Williamsburg demonstrates daily to thousands of visitors the music of 18th century America. Consider the fife for your students. This instrument is:

- perfect for individual and group performance instruction requirements
- connected both with American history and many of the cultures expressed so fully in modern American society
- available in inexpensive, durable and virtually maintenance-free student models
- easy to play for the beginner, but allows for virtuosity with experience
- easily incorporated into a fife and drum corps or folk music ensemble, which helps keep the interest of the students alive and encourages the support of parents and the local community

# Spring 2008 Price List

## Fifes & Accessories by Cooperman

### Professional Models

Traditional Rosewood \$ 105.00

Traditional Grenadilla \$ 130.00

### Student Models

Persimmon \$ 45.00 as available

Plastic \$ 7.00

### Concert Fifes

Cooperman or McDonagh Models

Grenadilla 6 hole \$ 200.00

Grenadilla 10 hole \$ 215.00

### Specialty Fifes

Rosewood \$ 105.00

Grenadilla \$ 130.00

### Fife Cases

Black leather for 1 piece \$40.00

Black leather for 2 piece \$40.00

Black fabric for 1 piece \$35.00

Black fabric for 2 piece \$35.00

*Cooperman fifes are warranted – please inquire for full details. In brief, we will perform minor repairs and replace lost rings and assemblies for the time the fife is in the possession of the original owner at no charge other than shipping/handling, as long as parts remain available, or find a suitable substitute; should the owner need an instrument during the time of repair, we will provide a loaner instrument as available; should major repairs be occasioned by accidental damage to the instrument, we will provide repair services at a discount.*

### Books

Drummers & Fifers Guide

Bruce & Emmett \$ 14.00

New England Collection

Martial Music \$ 10.00

Martial Music of the

American Civil War \$ 10.00

Martial Music of the

French & Indian War \$ 10.00

Martial Music of the

Seminole Wars \$ 10.00

Old Fort Snelling Instruction Book

for the Fife \$ 12.00

### CDs

Conn Valley Field Music \$15.00

Colonial Williamsburg World

Turned Upside Down \$15.00

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