

What is that 6 foot long stick called ???

F U J A R A [pronounced: fuiyara]

“**Fujara**” is an iconic musical instrument from Slovakia, with a unique voice. Many say they will never forget hearing fujara for the first time! It is a large (up to 6 feet high) fipple overtone flute with 3 side holes and a parallel smaller tube, which supplies your air to the top of the flute. Cherished in the seclusion of the Slovak mountains by shepherds, the fujara has been preserved over the centuries. Until recently, the fujara was not known outside of Slovakia, and only a small number of traditional musicians played the instrument, and a handful of craftsmen who could make one. But since 2000 the popularity of fujara is on the rise, people all over the world are discovering the beauty and unique qualities of the instrument, and there is growing number of happy fujara players in Europe and USA.

The instrument is surprisingly easy to play, just by blowing into the instrument with different air levels, you can play many tones without opening any of the 3 side holes!

Fujara magical voice is full of harmonic overtones, it can play melodies in 2 octaves, and more tones in the high 3rd octave, when its normally soft haunting voice would change into shrill high overtones called “scatter”, often used at the beginning of a typical Slovak folk song. Both tubes of the instrument are traditionally hand drilled from trunks of Black Elder, or other hardwoods, and usually are beautifully decorated.

Traditional fujara melodies are in a slow tempo, and the lyrics are folk-poetry about the hard daily life of shepherds, the beauty of nature, and about forest outlaws. Most current Slovak fujara players preserve the traditional fujara music, while fujara players of the world are finding new ways to play this magnificent instrument, and YOU could be one of them!

Koncovka (“overtone flute”) is short and very easy to play flute, also called “end flute”, because it doesn’t have any side holes (!), and the technique of playing involves closing and opening the end of the flute with a finger, it has range of 1.5 octaves in Lydian mode. It is very versatile and a perfect instrument for intuitive playing and even for jamming blues.

Bob Rychlik has been sharing the voice of the fujara and koncovka with audiences since beginning of this century at countless performances and Folk festivals here and abroad, Kennedy Center, the US Library of Congress, Slovak Embassy, St. Petersburg Russia, appeared on Czech, Slovak and American TV, Slovak, Czech and Slavic festivals, TEDx talk, organized and taught fujara workshops and festivals in the USA, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. He has been teaching a week long fujara course each summer since 2011 at McDaniel College in Maryland. He composes music for fujara and guitar, and is working on his CD.

fujara performance at the Library of Congress:

to see it on YouTube, search for: “Fujara – Library of Congress”, Folk music from the Slovak Mountains:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Y5fonktBzQ>

TEDx Naperville: Fujara and freedom:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtAmvk024TI>

Both the fujara and koncovka are very easy to play, no experience in music is necessary!!!

Learn how to play the fujara and koncovka at the next **Common Ground on the Hill**, Traditions Weeks, in Westminster, Maryland, register for the “Overtone flutes – Fujara and Koncovka” course:
<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/instructors/rychlik-bob> (virtual on-line, or live personal)

Contact:

If you are interested in fujara or koncovka, please contact me at: fujara@gmail.com, or by Facebook Messenger
Thank you for your interest!



Bohuslav (Bob) Rychlík (on Facebook as "Bob Rychlík")

Learn to play Fujara and Koncovka this summer in Maryland!

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/experience/programs-and-workshops/traditions-weeks/what-are-traditions-weeks>

2025 Fujara and Koncovka overtone flutes class at Common Ground on the Hill

Do you love the sound of the fujara? You can play it too!!!

Again, but this time VIRTUAL CLASS will take place right here, no need to travel the only place in the USA and entire Western Hemisphere), the 5-day course FUJARA and KONCOVKA playing course will take place at **McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland** in July – and you could take it from your favorite chair at your home!

Week 1: June 23 – 27, 2025, 3rd period: 1:00 – 2:15 pm (period verified by May)
VIRTUAL Fujara and Koncovka overtone flutes class

Week 3: July 14 – 18, 2025, 3rd period: 1:00 - 2:15 pm (period verified by May)
Fujara and Koncovka overtone flutes class:
IN PERSON live class at campus of McDaniel College, Westminster Maryland
Both classes details:

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/fujara>

Week 3: July 14 – 18, 2025, period determined by May
Sing with me the most favorite Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak folk songs:
IN PERSON live class at campus of McDaniel College, Westminster Maryland:

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/bohemia-moravia-and-slovakia>

Do you have Slovak or Slavic roots? Or you have heard that magic tone and wanted to make that sound? Fujara is so easy, that by the third day students can play Amazing Grace, because it only needs to open a single side hole several times. Now is the opportunity, this summer might be the very last virtual class, and if you live far from Maryland, you save on travel and accommodation for 5 days. Last summer one virtual student was Slovak living in Scotland! Slovaks are very proud of this unique instrument, and every musician of the world should know, that fujara is “full blown” musical instrument with range of 2 octaves, able to play any kind of music, from folk to classical!

Koncovka is even easier to play (no side holes), and is ideal for playing music in Lydian mode used at many Slovak songs, but also modern melodies and blues improvisation.

Unless you already have a fujara or koncovka at home as a decoration, it is time to get one shipped from Slovakia, where they have many excellent makers, ask me for recommendation if you wish. I recommend full size fujara in key of G and koncovka in key of C. Contact me for any questions by email: fujara@gmail.com

Find out more, and or Register “online,” click link at top of this page. If you need help, send email to: commonground@commongroundonthehill.org

