

# Burkart

FLUTES & PICCOLOS





Burkart  
FLUTES & PICCOLOS

## Mission Statement

Resonance and easy control.  
Extremes in tonal color and dynamic range.  
These are the hallmarks of our luxury line of precious-metal instruments.

Each key of the Burkart flute and piccolo is designed as an extension of the human body. The curves, angles, heights, and reaction of the touch pieces maximize technique and minimize fatigue.

Our mission at Burkart is to enable the flutist to push the performance envelope by giving full voice and limitless technical possibilities to the instrument. Every Burkart flute, piccolo, and headjoint truly embodies the motto "The Sound and Feel of Great Design."

## History

Lillian Burkart and James Phelan, active participants in the Boston tradition of flutemaking for more than a quarter of a century, are among the most respected crafters of musical instruments in the world. As musicians, innovators, and leaders, Burkart and Phelan focus their full attention on making the finest flutes, piccolos, and headjoints.

Lillian Burkart's expert knowledge of every nuance in flute and piccolo making is unparalleled. She has developed many improvements to the piccolo, and has studied and improved headjoint configurations. Now the Burkart piccolo is held in the highest esteem and Burkart headjoints for the flute and piccolo are the exclusive choice for many of the world's finest musicians.

James Phelan's mechanical and acoustical engineering prowess has spawned major leaps in the science of making flutes and piccolos. His mathematical approach to scale and careful analysis of traditional procedures have improved the most delicate and tonally critical parts of our instruments.

In 1996, Burkart-Phelan, Inc. introduced its first professional flute. The artists at Burkart have since created the pinless micro-Link™ mechanism, married cutting edge metallurgy with tone production, honed the precise mechanics of the keywork, and expanded access to our instruments throughout the world. Today, Burkart flutes are at the forefront of the flute technology and development continuum. Every instrument is still crafted under the watchful eyes and steady hands of Burkart's founders, instilling in each the benefits of a rich history and wealth of experience.



# Lillian Burkart The Sound and Feel of Great Design

## The Sound ...

**Burkart Flute Scale:** James Phelan developed the scale that is the cornerstone of all Burkart flutes. Mathematically derived, it is known for evenness and stability of pitch.



**Proprietary Gold Solders:** High-karat gold solders with lower melting temperatures join the tone holes of the Elite flute to the body. These gold solders bond the flute parts more effectively than soft solders, do not deteriorate over time, and enhance resonance and projection.

**Hand-Cut Headjoints:** The headjoint maker at Burkart is uniquely qualified to skillfully unlock the special characteristics of each metal.

### Silent Action:

Sleek, felt bumpers regulate and quiet the key action.



**Tonal Voicing:** The tone holes of every Burkart flute are tuned using the Lillian Burkart system of voicing. This final touch gives the Burkart flute its even, balanced tone in all registers.

### Custom Contemporary Pads:

The response and stability of these pads enhance the beauty of the sound in all environments.

## The Feel ...



**Precision Keys and Arms:** To play its best a flute's pads must cover perfectly. With this in mind, each Burkart key cup is cut from solid gold or silver, leaving a flat internal surface for pads. The cup perfectly centers the flute pad, delivering added stability to the padding system.

**Stainless Steel Rods:** All Burkart flutes are built using three different types of specially alloyed stainless steel rods. These rods resist flexing, distortion, and corrosion. The system reduces friction and gives the player more hours of maintenance-free play.

**The slide** from D# to each of the three lowest notes of the flute is unmatched for comfort and ease in the Burkart key design.

**Length, shaping, and position** of the G# lever minimize fatigue in the left hand. (Extended length available for small hands)

**Ergonomic Key Design:** The flutist's thumb and little fingers work hard. The thumb key and lever are angled to lie under an unstrained left-hand position. The sculpted curves of the key make the slide from B to Bb effortless.

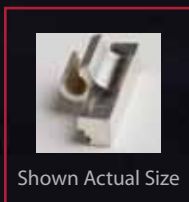


# The **Burkart** Elite Flute

The Burkart Elite flute is a handmade custom flute with soldered tone holes, featuring Burkart's micro-Link™ pinless mechanism. Every flute option and customization is available on the Elite flute.

# The **Burkart** Professional Flute

The Burkart Professional model is handmade with the same custom built keys found on the Elite model. This flute features the traditional key mechanism, with drawn tone holes. The drawn tone hole is extruded from the material of the body tube.



## **Burkart's** micro-Link™ Mechanism

An improvement upon all previous pinless mechanisms, this innovative architecture provides stability with two solid 14K white gold rods, reduces weight, and allows the transfer of motion to be very close to the main axle of the keys. By design, the keys are easy to remove for maintenance and adjustments. The simple elegance of Burkart's micro-Link™ mechanism results in equally light spring tension throughout, stable and balanced response for both the right and left hands, and lightning-fast action.



| Feature                   | Burkart Elite                             | Burkart Professional         |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Scale                     | A=440, A=442, A=444                       | A=442                        |
| Mechanism                 | micro-Link™ Pinless Mechanism             | Traditional Key Mechanism    |
| Tone Holes                | Soldered                                  | Drawn                        |
| Metals                    | Platinum                                  | 14K Rose Gold                |
|                           | 14K Rose or White Gold                    | 9K G&S                       |
|                           | 10K Rose Gold                             | .018", .016" Sterling Silver |
|                           | 5-95 Platinum Enhanced Silver             |                              |
|                           | 998 Silver                                |                              |
| French Pointed Arms       | Included                                  | Included                     |
| Gold Springs              | Included                                  | Included                     |
| G Donut                   | Included                                  | Included                     |
| Gizmo                     | Included                                  | Included                     |
| G keys                    | Inline or offset available                | Inline or offset available   |
| Footjoint                 | B or C available                          | B Foot only                  |
| Tonal Voicing             | Included                                  | Not available                |
| C# Trill Key              | Available                                 | Available                    |
| Split-E on Offset G       | Available                                 | Available                    |
| Split-E on Inline G       | Available                                 | Requires pinless upgrade     |
| D# Roller                 | Available                                 | Not available                |
| Convertible B/C Footjoint | Available                                 | Not available                |
| Key Engraving             | Available                                 | Not available                |
| Key Customization         | Available                                 | Not available                |
| 14K Mechanism             | Available on 14K Gold and Platinum Flutes | Not available                |



### Burkart Traditional Key Mechanism

The Burkart Professional model flute is built with a reliable pinned mechanism. The supporting rods of the flute are made of hard, polished stainless steel rods. The precision and construction of the internal conical bearing system delivers lifetimes of dependability.

# Flute Options

Please see page 9 for pricing for model and option pricing.

**C# Trill Key:** So named because it moves the B- C# and C- C# trills from the left hand to the right, while facilitating numerous other high-register trills.

**Split-E Mechanism:** When fingering E, a bridge mechanism closes the lower G cup independently from the upper G cup, correcting the venting for the E3. E3 can be produced at any dynamic level with security.



**G Donut:** Also enhances E3 production. When made from a synthetic material, it is included in every flute at no extra charge. If made from the same metal as the flute, it is offered at a small additional cost.

**D# Roller:** Can be added to the D# lever to facilitate the slide from the D# to other foot joint notes below it.

**Convertible B/C Foot Joint:** This C foot joint has an additional section to attach when the performer needs to play low B. This benefits the player who would normally wish to play the flute with a C foot.

**Hand-Engraved Design Work:** Can be done on the embouchure plate or the key work of any flute to decorate and uniquely identify the individual instrument.

**Customization of Keys:** Done in close consultation with the performer who requires special comforts for small hands, repetitive stress, etc.

## Benefits of the C# Trill

### B to C# in the First and Second

**Octaves:** By providing the C# with a full-sized tone hole, the intonation is better. Additionally, the two-finger trill is avoided.



**C to C# in the First and Second Octaves:** Moved from the first finger left hand to the first finger right hand, the trill is generally faster and better in tune.

**High G to A in the Third Octave:** Perhaps the better name for the C# trill key would be the High G to A trill key. Finger high G and trill the C# trill and the upper trill key. An otherwise awkward, treacherous, and too-common trill is made easy.

For more benefits of the C# trill, visit us at [www.burkart.com](http://www.burkart.com).



# Flute Headjoints

Every headjoint is tested by the founder to assure artistic and tonal integrity with her design. Whether your need is for a powerful, rich headjoint with projection in the orchestra, a sweet sound for chamber music or a mellow and easy headjoint in the studio or club, at Burkart we offer a headjoint for you.

## Flute Headjoint Styles

**C4 Model:** This embouchure, derived from a classic cut, produces a warm, round, full-bodied sound. It is noted for its fluidity and flexibility in slurring wide intervals. The player will enjoy homogeneity in all three octaves, and even into the fourth register. The stability and ease of play allow for nuance within a wide range of colors and dynamics.

**M2 Model:** This unique cut is Lillian Burkart's most innovative. The air stream is quickly excited and the player achieves exceptional response and projection. The embouchure shape focuses the tone, resulting in a clear, clean, and directed flute sound. All three octaves have a ringing resonance and a dark core. The M2 model provides an unprecedented dynamic range and powerful low register.



"Quite simply, the  
very best flutes."

Jim  
Walker



# Metals

## Platinum

The Burkart platinum flute is made with a .011" wall of an extraordinary alloy, SSP, which intensifies the Burkart characteristics of resonance, responsiveness, and projection. Our platinum flutes are the most stable in terms of response and offer the flutist the most extreme dynamic possibilities.

## 14K Rose or White Gold

Our classic 14K gold flutes feature the traditional rose or white gold alloys. The 14K flute produces a full, deep, rich timbre. Our white gold tube produces an especially clear, resonant sound with excellent overtones and a wide palette.

A solid 14K rose gold mechanism is also offered on the Elite model, and extends the magnificence of the gold Burkart flute. A gold mechanism will not tarnish and retains its luster for many lifetimes of enjoyment.

## 10K Rose Gold

The 10K rose gold flute offers the flutist the opportunity to explore the added depth of gold while retaining the beautiful brilliance of a silver flute. The 10K gold Lillian Burkart Elite flute is made with solid gold tubing in a 0.014" wall thickness. It has silver tone holes, rings, and keywork. The standard flute includes a silver embouchure, with an optional upgrade to a 14K embouchure.

## 9K G&S

The exterior of the body and headjoint are 9K gold and the interior is sterling silver. The tubing is crafted in 0.016" wall thickness, of which the 9K gold layer comprises 20%. This flute marries the best tonal qualities of gold and silver. Rich in aesthetic appeal, the 9K Gold & Silver flute is extremely rewarding to play.

## 5-95 Platinum Enhanced Silver

Made from 5% pure platinum and 95% pure silver, with a wall thickness of 0.016", this flute delivers an increased spectrum of color, as with gold or platinum, but with considerably less weight. Combining focused sound and good projection, the dynamics and intensity are greater than with sterling silver.

## Sterling Silver

Burkart's standard silver flutes are made of sterling silver (92.5% silver). They are available in tubing thicknesses of: 0.014" ...The most shimmer, delicacy, and "spin" in the sound  
0.016" ...Our most popular wall thickness with a solid, warm timbre  
0.018" ...The darkest, roundest, and most robust sound in the sterling silver family

## 998 Silver

Our 998 silver flute has the tonal depth, color, and projection of a platinum flute, the warmth of a gold flute, and yet speaks with the shimmer and brilliance of a silver flute. The resonance of this flute is the result of its extraordinary 99.8% pure silver tube that is both hard and reflective. Hardness imparts vibrancy, color, and a beautiful distinction in the sound of the Lillian Burkart Elite 998 silver flute.



Please contact your authorized Burkart representative for pricing information.

| Flute Models  | Elite  |        | Professional |
|---|--------|--------|--------------|
|   | B Foot | C Foot | B Foot       |
| .016" Sterling Silver   | ●      | ●      | ●            |
| .018" Sterling Silver   | ●      | ●      | ●            |
| 9K G&S  |        |        | ●            |
| 998 Silver  | ●      | ●      |              |
| 5-95 Platinum Enhanced Silver   | ●      | ●      |              |
| 10K Rose Gold with silver keys, ribs, rings, tone holes and embouchure          | ●      | ●      |              |
| 14K Rose Gold with silver keys, ribs, rings, soldered tone holes on Elite model | ●      | ●      | ●            |
| 14K White Gold with silver keys, ribs, rings & tone holes                       | ●      | ●      |              |
| 14K Rose Gold .012" 14K gold tone holes & rings, silver keys & ribs             | ●      | ●      |              |
| 14K Solid Rose Gold   | ●      | ●      |              |
| Platinum with Silver or 14K Gold Mechanism                                      | ●      | ●      |              |

Flute Options

| Flute Options                     | Elite | Professional |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| C# Trill Key                      | ●     | ●            |
| Split-E Mechanism                 | ●     | ●            |
| D# Roller                         | ●     |              |
| Extra B or C Foot Joint           | ●     |              |
| Convertible B/C Foot Joint        | ●     |              |
| Hand-Engraved Design Work on Keys | ●     |              |
| Key Customization                 | ●     |              |

Flute Headjoints & Options

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Sterling Silver .016" or .014"                   | ● |
| 9K G&S (includes silver riser & 9K lip-plate)    | ● |
| 998 Silver                                       | ● |
| 5-95 Platinum Enhanced Silver                    | ● |
| 10K Rose Gold Tube w/ Sterling Silver Embouchure | ● |
| 14K Rose Gold Tube w/ 14K Embouchure             | ● |
| 14K White Gold Tube w/ 14K Embouchure            | ● |
| 19.5K Rose Gold Tube w/ 14K Embouchure           | ● |
| Platinum Tube w/ 14K Embouchure                  | ● |
| 5-95 Riser (only available on 5-95 headjoint)    | ● |
| 14K Gold Riser                                   | ● |
| 14K Gold Embouchure (riser & lip-plate)          | ● |
| Platinum Riser                                   | ● |
| Hand-Engraved Design Work on Lip Plate           | ● |



Aleksandr Haskin, soloist and co-principal flutist of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra

"Burkart flutes have some magic in their sound. The intonation is excellent. I am free to make music"

# Lillian Burkart Piccolos

**Burkart Piccolo Scale:** The piccolo scale was revised in 2007 after six months of acoustical experimentation and prototype modeling by Lillian Burkart. Our piccolo scale continues to deliver the full, flute-like sound for which it is heralded. Players will enjoy how easily they can produce the high register and will appreciate the improvements to resonance and articulation in the low register.

**Wood:** Historically, the choice wood for woodwinds has been, and remains, African grenadilla. Grenadilla wood alone exhibits the needed qualities of acoustical warmth, hardness, density, and, with proper management, stability. The world's finest grenadilla is selected for the Burkart piccolo. Our aging process is unmatched and includes selection, curing, turning, drilling, and, most importantly, time.

**Mechanism:** All keywork, ribs and posts are made of solid sterling silver or 14K gold. The exacting fit of the keys ensures stability and longevity.

**Ergonomic Keywork:** The heights of levers and the placement of touch pieces, coupled with the delicate balance of the spring tension, provide comfort and technical facility for players with either large or small hands.



"I really enjoy the clarity and ease of response on my Burkart piccolo."

Jeff Zook, piccoloist, Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

"The absolute reliability of my Burkart flute and piccolo constantly impresses me. The scale system is extremely accurate, which gives me the confidence to play with poise in any register and at any dynamic level that I desire. The depth of sound offered by my 998 silver flute is outstanding, and I love the tonal possibilities offered by my piccolo."

Molly Barth, flute professor at University of Oregon, Grammy Winner, co-founder of "Beta Collide"

# Piccolo Headjoints

"The piccolo sound has a notable presence when used in the ensemble. The player's ability to control it with ease is greatly affected by the embouchure shapes. To accommodate differences in the shape of the lips, use of the oral cavity, and direction of the airstream, I have developed three styles of headjoint for the piccolo." – Lillian Burkart



## Burkart:

The rectangular shape of this embouchure is slightly overcut at the sides of the embouchure hole for an open, "flute-like" sound that blends well in ensembles. Our most flexible headjoint style, you can push it to the extremes of fortissimo high notes without it being shrill, and it can produce a colorful, sustained diminuendo.

## Wave:

The headjoint profile is carved with a slightly higher front wall (the blowing edge) and lower back wall against which the chin rests. It produces a very rich, clean, projecting tone, with easy control of dynamics. The low register is very focused, enabling good projection and articulation.

## Clarion:

This relatively small embouchure hole, with modest rounding of the edges, is reminiscent of early French and German piccolos. The tone it produces is very focused and sweet. For players using a small aperture when playing, it will have the most stable, clear tone of the various headjoint styles.

## Precious Metals:

These headjoints offer the security of a lip plate, which can afford the occasional player the ease and comfort to master the piccolo. The hand-cut embouchure supports an easy high-register response and a focused, projecting middle and low register. Available in sterling silver or 14K gold.

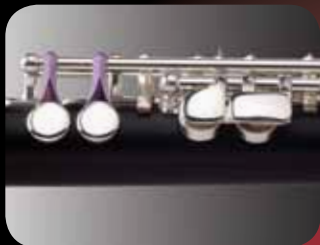
"It's necessary in the LSO for me to cover a range of different types of work from top quality classical concerts to studio work for major artists and films and the Burkart piccolo suits the job perfectly. I love the full bodied rich sound you can produce on them, even in the most pianissimo of phrases. I love my piccolo. Actually all three of them!"

Sharon Williams, solo piccoloist,  
London Symphony Orchestra



# Burkart Elite Piccolo

Every Burkart Elite piccolo is made of vintage African grenadilla wood, finished with a sterling silver mechanism and a choice of headjoint. This signature Burkart instrument is coupled with a split-E mechanism, exclusive options including the High G# facilitator, and three headjoint choices for the musician. The tone hole design gives a dark, aged quality to the sound of the instrument.



## Elite Custom Model

The Elite Custom model features traditional Y-shaped arms attaching the cups of all keys.



## Elite Deluxe Model

The Deluxe model features an upgrade to French-style pointed arms attaching the cups of all closed-hole keys.

# Burkart Professional Piccolo

All Burkart Professional piccolos are made of aged African grenadilla wood, finished with a sterling silver mechanism. The tone hole shaping and venting is designed for ease of play.

"I love my Burkart piccolo. It makes life easy. A lot of my ease with the piccolo is due to this instrument. The Burkart piccolos are very consistent."

Mindy Kaufman, solo piccoloist and flutist of the New York Philharmonic



# Piccolo Options

Lillian Burkart has spent decades researching and refining the piccolo. The widely acclaimed Burkart piccolo sets industry standards and is played in many of the world's top orchestras.

In concert with James Phelan, Ms. Burkart continues to apply precise and technically advanced methods to the crafting of piccolos. From the selection and aging of the finest woods, to the tooling of keys and mechanisms, and, finally, to the careful voicing of each instrument, every Burkart piccolo is unsurpassed in tone and playability.



**G# Facilitator:** Another Burkart innovation, the high G# facilitator eliminates the need to use two right-hand fingers to assist in the production of a high G#. Unlike prior European facilitators, this design does not inhibit the production of high C—it is activated automatically when the player fingers G#.

**On/Off Split-E Slide:** Engage or disengage the split-E for alternate fingerings.

## 14K Gold Mechanism

### Elite & Professional Specifications

| Feature        | Burkart Elite                   | Burkart Professional          |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wood           | Vintage, select grenadilla      | Aged grenadilla               |
| Mechanism      | Deluxe, beveled sterling silver | Sterling silver               |
| Gold Springs   | Included                        | Included                      |
| Split-E        | Included                        | Optional                      |
| G# Facilitator | Optional                        | Not available                 |
| Headjoints     | Wave, Burkart, or Clarion       | Wave or Clarion               |
| Pads           | Straubinger pads, cork trills   | Custom-made felt, cork trills |
| On-Off Split-E | Optional                        | Not available                 |

"The moment I first played the Burkart 5-95 platinum-enhanced silver flute I felt the resonance of the instrument vibrate in my fingers.

Paired with my solid platinum headjoint, this flute delivers a full palette of colors and an enormous dynamic range."

Linda Chesis,  
soloist and flute professor  
Manhattan School of Music



**Burkart**  
FLUTES & PICCOLOS

## Piccolos & Headjoints

Please contact your authorized  
Burkart representative for pricing information.

| Piccolo Model  | Burkart Elite   |        | Burkart Professional |      |
|--|-----------------|--------|----------------------|------|
|  | Custom          | Deluxe | B-P                  | B-PE |
| High G# Facilitator  | ●               | ●      |                      |      |
| Split-E Mechanism  | ●               | ●      |                      | ●    |
| On/Off Split-E Slide   | ●               | ●      |                      |      |
| German System (Open-G with Reverse Thumb)                          | ●               | ●      |                      |      |
| Grenadilla Wood Clarion Style Headjoint or Burkart Style Headjoint | Player's choice |        | Clarion only         |      |
| Grenadilla Wood Wave Style Headjoint upgrade                       | ●               | ●      | ●                    | ●    |
| Sterling Silver Clarion Style Headjoint upgrade                    | ●               | ●      | ●                    | ●    |
| 14K Gold Clarion Style Headjoint upgrade                           | ●               | ●      |                      |      |
| 14K Gold Keys  |                 | ●      |                      |      |

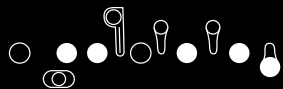
### Piccolo Headjoints

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Grenadilla Wood Clarion Style Headjoint | ● |
| Grenadilla Wood Burkart Style Headjoint | ● |
| Grenadilla Wood Wave Style Headjoint    | ● |
| Sterling Silver Clarion Style Headjoint | ● |
| 14K Gold Clarion Style Headjoint        | ● |

### Piccolo Fingering Tips:

#### C# fingering

Lowers a sharp C#2 and raises a low C#3.



#### High F# fingering

Little finger of right hand is off for best response.



#### High G-A trill for piccolos with a split-E

This trill needs a kick to get it started.



Begin the trill by fingering G3, then lift first finger left hand and trill as shown.

#### High G-A trill for piccolos without a split-E

Kick off with the G3 fingering.



● = Depressed Key ○ = Untouched Key ✕ = Trilled Key

For more fingering tips, visit [www.burkart.com](http://www.burkart.com).





## Try a Burkart

**Visit us:** We welcome you to come to our workshop, where you can try our instruments. Please contact us one to two weeks before your planned visit to schedule an appointment.

**We may visit you:** Our flute experts are road-warriors, traveling to flute events around the globe. These opportunities allow you to hear and feel the Burkart difference. Check our website to see where we'll be next.

**Try a Burkart at home:** We offer a trial-by-mail policy. For a small fee, which covers shipping and insurance, we will send flutes, piccolos, and/or headjoints right to you. You can test the instrument, and meet with colleagues and professors to gain their insight.

**Visit an authorized representative:** We supply a small network of certified dealers throughout the world. Please call us for a recommendation, or you can browse the list on our website.

## Ready to Buy

Each Lillian Burkart flute and piccolo is **custom made** to the player's specifications. A 50% non-refundable deposit is required before we can begin crafting your instrument. **Contact us at 978-425-4500 to discuss your order, including pricing and availability.**

### Services and Warranties

The advantages of buying from a small domestic shop are numerous. A Burkart flute or piccolo is an heirloom quality instrument that will last for generations. To keep your flute or piccolo at peak performance level, it is recommended that a routine clean, oil, and adjust (COA) be performed by Burkart every 12 to 18 months.

Every Burkart flute or piccolo is fully warranted for one year from the date of delivery. Within that year, services are extended in the Burkart shop or at our authorized repair center at no charge. Repairs performed outside the Burkart workshop or repair center may void these warranties. The warranty does not include service of damaged instruments.



## THE BURKART COMMITMENT

As the builders of your instrument, we take our responsibility to you very seriously. Each member of our finishing staff is a capable flutist. Every instrument is tested with pride before it is sent to the owner who commissioned it. When you order a flute or piccolo from Burkart, you enter into a relationship that you will find profoundly rewarding.

*Lillian Burkart*  
*Phelan*

Burkart  
FLUTES & PICCOLOS

Burkart Flutes and Piccolos • 2 Shaker Road #D107 • Shirley, MA 01464 USA  
(p) 978-425-4500 (f) 978-425-9800 • info@burkart.com • www.burkart.com