

## Bass Clarinet, Woodwind Instrument

The three branches of the **woodwind family** have different sources of sound. Vibrations begin when air is blown across the top of an instrument, across a single reed, or across two reeds. Reeds are small pieces of cane. The **bass clarinet** is a single reed instrument. A single reed is clamped to a mouthpiece at the top of the instrument and vibrates against the mouthpiece when air is blown between the reed and the mouthpiece.

The **bass clarinet** is a larger and lower sounding relative of the clarinet. Like the clarinet, the bass clarinet is made of a very hard wood.

