

## Introduction to Harmonica Instruction

### Instructions for Hand Position

- 1) Hold harmonica (“harp”) in your left hand\* between the index finger and thumb. You should see the numbers 1-10 on the top of the harmonica and the letter C on the far right of the harmonica.
- 2) Keep your index finger and thumb towards the back of the harp, so that there is plenty of room for your lips.
- 3) Purse your lips (as if you are whistling) and cover hole #1. Your lips should actually cover the written number for each hole. Check this in a mirror. Make sure you have enough “lip” on the harp.
- 4) Blow into hole # 1. This is called a blow note.
- 5) Inhale on #1. This is called a draw note.
- 6) Continue this exercise (blow & draw) on holes 1-10. Try to get each note “by itself” if you can. If you hit 2 notes at a time, no problem!

\*If you are left-handed, I suggest you first try instruction #1 as written. If that is uncomfortable, then try holding the harp in your right hand. Choose the option that is more comfortable.

### Instructions for Reading Harmonica Notation

↑ = Blow                      ↓ = Draw

Reading the following harmonica notation is very simple. When you see an arrow pointing up (↑), you exhale (blow) into the harmonica. When you see an arrow pointing down (↓), you inhale (draw) through the harmonica.

Have fun reading your first harmonica songs, and playing along with the accompaniment!

- Wiley Rankin