

## Native American Flute Legend

A young hunter wanted to touch the spirit of a young woman in his village for the purpose of mating. While on a hunting trail, a woodpecker bird came to him and presented him a gift.

The woodpecker pecked holes in a hollow limb hanging from a Cedar tree. The wind blowing across the holes carved by the woodpecker made a beautiful song, that touched the Spirit of the young hunter. The young hunter thanked the woodpecker for his musical gift. Then he took down the hollow limb with carved holes, carved an effigy of the woodpecker and played the Wind song. Later, he played this song for the young woman. He touched her Spirit and won her heart, and she chose him for her mate. This is how the story has been told for many generations.

Today Mark creates his flutes with care and honors the woodpecker who made the first flute by making an effigy woodpecker on each cedar flute to honor the origins of the first American Indian flute ever created.

As retold by Mark Barfoot, Onondaga/Cherokee