

upon his death in 1809 by his sons Johann Andreas (b.1781; d.1840) and Johann Joseph (b.1782; d. 1855).<sup>22</sup> The clarinetist mentioned in this article might have been a son or grandson of the founder. The letter (translated by Ritter) reads in part as follows,<sup>23</sup>

*“Here the musical situation is the following: New York has four theatres, — Park Theatre, Bowery Theatre, Lafayette, and Chatham Theatre. Dramas, comedies and spectacle pieces, also the Wolf’s den scene from ‘Der Freischütz,’ but without singing, as melodramas and small operettas are given. The performance of a whole opera is not to be thought of. However, they have no orchestra to do it. The orchestras are very bad indeed, as bad as it is possible to imagine, and incomplete. Sometimes they have two clarinets, which is a great deal, sometimes there is only one first instrument. Of bassoons, trumpets and kettledrums, one never sees a sight. However, once in a while a first bassoon is employed. Oboes are totally unknown in this country. Only one oboist exists in North America, and he is said to live in Baltimore.*

*“In spite of this incompleteness, they play symphonies by Haydn, and grand overtures; and, if a gap occurs, they think, ‘this is only of passing importance,’ provided it rattles away again afterwards. . .”*



C. G. CHRISTMAN  
404  
PEARL ST  
NEW YORK

Oboe in C,  
11 silver plated  
flat round keys.  
c.1850

Awarded silver medal,  
Mechanics’ Fair,  
American Institute of  
New York, 1850.

A440-452

Fig. 52-2

### C. G. Christman...

Of particular interest is an item entered in the 1837 Charitable Mechanic Association in Boston. The judges, in their report, stated,

“Of the Flutes, which were manufactured by E. G. CHRISTMAN of New York (no. 348), the Committee selected one with ten keys, which they considered the best, and which appeared to be a very fine instrument; but, as there was no competition, they had no opportunity to compare it with the productions of any other manufacturer. They have no hesitation, however, in expressing the opinion that the workmanship of these flutes was first rate. A Silver Medal.”



### T. J. Weygandt...

Thomas Jefferson Weygandt was descended from 16<sup>th</sup> century German Protestants in Saxony. The earliest ancestor identified with certainty by the family in America was Bishop John Wigand (The surname was variously spelled Whygand, Weigand, Wygant, etc.). He was born in Mansfeld, Upper Saxony, in 1523, and at an early age was sent to the famous schools of Wittenberg. There he studied the arts and languages and attended the lectures of Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon...



Flute by T. J. Weygandt, mentioned in the Judges’ Report of the 1831 exhibit.



Eight-keyed oboe by T. J. Weygandt, c. 1850.