

Clarinet Worksheet

Presented by Katie Curran

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Reed/Instrument/Mouthpiece Recommendations and Maintenance

Recommended Reeds

Vandoren regular or V12 size 3 or higher

Recommended Student Mouthpieces

Clark Fobes “Debut”

Vandoren Series 13 “B45”

Vandoren Series 13 “M30”

Vandoren Series 13 “5RV”

Richard Hawkins “Student” Bb

Recommended Professional Mouthpieces

Vandoren Series 13 “M15”

Richard Hawkins RHBbCLR Model “R”

Richard Hawkins RHBbCLB Model “B”

Richard Hawkins RHbbCLS Model “S”

Recommended Clarinets

Buffet E11 Bb Clarinet (Intermediate)

Buffet R13 Bb Clarinet (Professional)

One should always have at least 4 good reeds on hand at any time. I recommend purchasing one or two reed cases. If you have one case for reeds that you are “breaking in” and one for “performance” you will never be left unprepared.

Breaking in your reeds

Soak reeds in fresh water (water breaks down the reed less quickly than saliva) for about 30 seconds and pull excess water out gently using your fingers. Always avoid the tip of the reed! Smooth the flat side of the reed with your finger until almost dry. Let dry flat end up, this allows any warping to go toward the mouthpiece. When dry, place in reed case. Repeat this process for 2 or three days.

At this point you are able to begin playing on your new reeds. I suggest for the first few days to only play on these reeds for a few minutes at a time. You don’t want to “waterlog” them. When finished repeat the drying process as before putting the reeds away, this helps avoid mold and mildew to grow on your reeds – ewwww!

Sometimes reeds will feel dry and brittle, mostly during the winter months. At this point I will take a small piece of lightly wetted sponge and put it in a zip lock bag along with my reed case. This helps to keep humidity levels a bit more stable during those dry months.

Occasionally you will feel a bump on the flat side of the reed caused by warping against the mouthpiece. This is easily remedied by laying the reed flat on a piece of waterproof sandpaper (400 -600) and gently rubbing out the bump in a circular motion. Again, avoid the tip of the reed and only rub out the area that is not flat. Flattening out the reed will help most response problems, but let's face it reeds are inconsistent and sometimes you just can't use some of them! It is however your responsibility to always have good, responsive equipment, always having 4 good reeds on hand.

Cleaning your mouthpiece

“Yuck! What is that crud all over my mouthpiece, that's disgusting!” That “crud” is pretty gross, but easily removed. The number one rule in cleaning your mouthpiece is NEVER use soap! It will turn your mouthpiece green! My suggestion is that you find a small container where you can combine 2 parts lemon juice and 1 part water. You don't need much, just enough to cover the bottom of the container. At this point gather several Q-tips. Soak the ends of the Q-tips in the lemon juice/water solution and begin gently rubbing away at the inside and outside of the mouthpiece. You may rinse out the mouthpiece with water, but remember NO soap. This process should be repeated at least every 2-3 weeks.

Instrument Maintenance

It is important to keep your equipment in good working order at all times. For this reason I recommend having your instrument “overhauled” or simply looked at once per year. Even if there is nothing wrong with your instrument, the repair person will clean and oil all of the keys and tone holes. This will help response and also help to avoid problems in the future. If your instrument is made of wood, it is imperative that you keep an eye out for cracks. Cracks happen as a result of rapid changes in humidity and usually occur during the drier winter months. For this reason, it is very important that you swab out your instrument before you pack it up – EVERY TIME! If a crack does occur, make sure to get it to a repair person as quickly as possible, if it goes through a tone hole, it can really change the sound of the instrument.

Suggested Studies

“24 Varied Scales and Exercises for Clarinet,” by J.B. Albert, published by Carl Fischer.

“Foundation Studies from Baermann Book 3, Op. 63 Daily Studies for Clarinet,” compiled by David Hite, Published by Southern Music Company.

“Clarinet Warm-Ups, Materials for the Contemporary Clarinetist,” by Kelly Burke, published by Dorn Publications.

“416 Progressive Daily Studies for the Clarinet,” by F. Kroepsch revised by Simeon Bellison, published by Carl Fischer. *Books 1-4*

“40 Studies for Clarinet,” arranged by Cyrille Rose, edited by David Hite, published by Southern Music Company.

“Passage Studies,” by Frederick Thurston, published by Boosey & Hawkes. *Books 1-2*

Suggested Music Supply Stores

Carere Music; Atlanta, GA 30360; (770) 671-0517 www.careremusic.com

Muncy Winds; Boone, NC; (800) 333-7083; www.muncywinds.com

Pro Winds; Bloomington, IN; (800) 789-8509; www.prowinds.com

Suggested Sheet Music Stores

*******Luyben Music;** Kansas City, MO; (800)-258-9236 www.luybenmusic.com

Opus Winds Music; Decatur, GA; (404) 378 -1132 www.opuswinds.com

JW Pepper; Lithia Springs, GA; (770) 941-9100 www.jwpepper.com

Warm-ups

Stretching

Breathing

Finger Exercises

Scales

Etudes/Solos

Recommended Recordings

“Clarinet Connection” Sabine Meyer, clarinet; includes Mozart Concerto, Weber Clarinet Concerto No. 1, Stamitz Clarinet Concerto No. 10.

“Mozart: Clarinet Concert, K.622 / Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra, K. 362” Robert Marcellus, clarinet with the Cleveland Orchestra under George Szell.

“John Manasse Plays 3 Clarinet Concertos” John Manasse, clarinet; includes Mozart Concerto, Copland Concerto, and Nielsen Concerto.

“Brahms: Clarinet and String Quintets with the ABQ” Sabine Meyer, clarinet with the Alban Berg Quartet.

Upcoming Atlanta Symphony Performances

Woodruff Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree Street Atlanta, GA 30309

For more information about the ASO visit, www.atlantasymphony.org or (404) 733-5000
Student tickets are available on the day of the performance for \$10 (cash only) with a valid student I.D. The Atlanta Symphony also has an exciting summer season lined up at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre located in Alpharetta, GA.