

# HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR OBOE...

## Oboe assembly and care tips

- Before playing, soak your oboe reed in water while you put your oboe together. You can buy oboe reed water cups that will fit in your case, so you can always have something to soak your reeds in.
- The oboe pieces are connected with corks, which will need to be greased with cork grease. Take the caps off the corks, and apply a small amount of cork grease at the bottom of the upper and lower joints of the oboe. Then, hold the upper joint in your right hand and your palm on the bottom (where there are no silver keys), and hold the lower (larger) joint in your left hand with your palm on the bottom. Gently turn the two joints in your hands and push them together.
- The two silver pieces on each side of the joints will help you line the pieces up together. After they are together, put the bell on the lower (large) joint. You can use the low Bb key to help align the bell and the lower joint.
- Always lie your oboe down on a safe surface with the keys facing upward.
- After your reed is soaked, you can 'buzz' your reed by rolling your lips over your teeth and stretching apart your teeth as though you were yawning, with your lips on the reed, and blowing. Take care not to push the reed into your teeth, as this could crack the reed.



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## Oboe cleaning guide

- Run a swab through the oboe to remove any moisture and debris from the inside of the instrument when you are finished playing. This will prevent the instrument from rotting and keep it in good playing condition.
- After playing, you should also clean under the pads to remove moisture and debris with woodwind cleaning paper.
- You may want to polish your oboe between practice sessions, but you should do this for no longer than 5 minutes so the silver is not worn away.
- You can use a soft natural hair paintbrush to remove dust from the outside of the instrument.
- Take care not to expose the oboe to extreme heat or cold, as this can cause cracking in the pipe or damage to the keys.
- Once a month, be sure to drip a small amount of key oil between the keys and key posts. Do not use too much oil, as it can cause problems if it comes into contact with the pads or cork. You can use cleaning paper to wipe away any excess oil. Clean any debris in between keys, pipes and other narrow spaces using a tone hole cleaner. Be careful not to damage the tone holes or other parts of the oboe (such as the metal springs) with the tone hole cleaner.

