

# Oboe Care and Maintenance

## Supplies:

1. Cork grease
2. Oboe swab (NOT a clarinet swab)
3. Reed/Reed holder
4. Small glass to hold water (like a shot glass)

## Before You Play:

1. Always rinse out your mouth with water
2. Make sure your hands are clean
3. Make sure the case has the correct side up when opening it.

## After You Play

1. Apply cork grease to the joints AS NEEDED. Too much may cause the joints to slip apart, too little will cause cork to swell and the instrument to get stuck together.
2. After playing, take the reed out of the instrument and put it in the reed case. Be very careful as you handle your reed.
3. Using the oboe swab (DO NOT USE A CLARINET SWAB), put the weighted end of the string down the bell until it comes out the top joint. Pull the swab through ONCE to remove the moisture that has built up during playing. **Do this every time you are done playing and before you put the instrument away!**
4. If the pads get sticky, you may clean them with a dollar bill by putting the bill underneath the key, pressing the key onto the bill, and pulling the bill out from the key. It may take several cleanings to remove the sticky - ness.

## Once Every Two Weeks:

1. Clean off the excess cork grease that will build up on the joints with a Q - tip.
2. Hand wash the cleaning swab with mild soap to avoid mildew.
3. Wash your shot glass so it doesn't get gross.

## Once a Year:

1. Take the instrument into the music store to have a technician re - align the keys, add key oil to the rods, and check for old or damaged pads.

## WARNING:

1. NEVER leave anything extra (book, papers, music) on top of your oboe in the case when you close the lid. This can damage your instrument. Keep your music and book in its own folder.
2. NEVER leave your oboe resting on the music stand - make sure it's in the case, on the chair (in two pieces), or on an oboe stand.

*Taking proper care of your oboe will keep your instrument playing well!*