

FRASER BAND

“HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR CLARINET”

ASSEMBLY: HOW TO PUT YOUR CLARINET TOGETHER

- 1) Before you open your case, be sure that it is right side up.
- 2) Grease the corks so that the pieces go together easily.
- 3) Put the bell on the lower joint by carefully twisting and pushing the cork into the bell.
- 4) Before putting the upper joint onto the lower, be sure to locate the bridge key and lift it up by holding the ring holes down in the front of the upper joint with your left hand.
- 5) The upper joint bridge key will be over the lower joint bridge key.
- 6) Place the barrel on top of the upper joint
- 7) Place the mouthpiece onto the barrel and put the reed onto the mouthpiece. The ligature will keep the reed in place.



WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED PLAYING

- 1) Remove your ligature, reed, and mouthpiece from the clarinet.
- 2) Carefully separate the upper and lower joints so the bridge key does not bend.
- 3) Swab the parts of clarinet each time you finish playing. **DO NOT** pull the swab through the mouthpiece. Clean the mouthpiece with a tissue when you have finished practicing at home. Moisture left in the instrument after you have finished playing will cause the pads to deteriorate.
- 4) Always remove your reed from the mouthpiece, wipe the excess moisture off of it, and place it in a reed guard.
- 5) Leave the ligature on the mouthpiece to keep it from getting bent, and be sure to replace the mouthpiece cover on the mouthpiece.
- 6) Always keep your clarinet in its case when you are not playing it. Never put anything in to your case that it was not designed to hold because the pressure can bend the rods and keys.

REGULAR MAINTENANCE

- 1) Do not polish the instrument. Instead use a soft cloth to wipe off moisture and finger marks after playing.
- 2) To keep your instrument clean, don't eat candy or chew gum before playing and **never** while playing.
- 3) Do not let anyone else play your instrument. The clarinet is a delicate instrument, which must be handled carefully. If you must set it down during class, put it on a flat surface with the keys up.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- 1) Clarinet, in good working order
- 2) Swab
- 3) Cork grease (tube style is best)
- 4) Reed keeper
- 5) Clarinet reeds – strength of #3 or Medium. Keep at least 3 reeds in playing shape.