

Clarinet: Front View



Now, let's add the clarinet...

- Same embouchure: chin must be flat and no smiling. Blowing “Heeee” or cool air.
- Assemble the clarinet
- Play middle C
- Then D and E above middle C
- Make sure embouchure remains absolutely still and that the student continues to blow “Heeee” - high tongue position.

Trouble Shooting: Listening & Observing Young Players

Flute Problems

- Airy sound - aperture is too large
- No sound - aperture too large, lip tab splits air stream, head joint rolled too much in/out
- Not enough air going through aperture (remember whoosh)
- Head joint slanted down from embouchure

Clarinet Problems

- “Strawberry chin” - chin muscles bunched: too much lower lip over lower teeth. Mirrors! Last resort - as little mouthpiece as possible into mouth and play sustained tones on barrel and mpc.

More Clarinet Problems

- Spread sound/flat sound: tongue too low (blowing haa with slower/warm air)
- Or, not enough muscle support around mouthpiece (should think of drawstring). Teacher should not be able to move the mouthpiece while student plays.
- Or, teeth not on top of mouthpiece

Clarinet Continued

- Honky sound: too much mouthpiece in the mouth
- Or too soft of a reed... once embouchures are stable, move them up to a 3 reed
- Airy sound: reed too hard or off balance on the mouthpiece.

Remember ...

- Characteristic tone across the ensemble affects the perception of blend and intonation.
- You must know what a flute and clarinet should sound like.
- You must also know how to troubleshoot common beginner tone problems.

A Note About Modeling

- Can *YOU* model flute and clarinet characteristic tone quality???
- If you can't, don't!
- Trade-off with your colleagues?
- Provide parents a list of CDs of players with exemplary tone quality.

Tone Quality References

- Flute: James Galway
- Clarinet: Jon Manasse
- Oboe: Ray Still
- Bassoon: Chris Weait
- Alto Sax: Otis Murphy

Clarinet Equipment for Beginners

- Buffet B12, Add VandorenB45 mouthpiece \$\$\$\$
- Yamaha Beginner Clarinet, stock mouthpiece great
- NO RICO Orange Box REEDS! Rico makes a great beginner reed...
- Use Mitchell Lurie 2.5 for 2 weeks and then go to 3.0.

Beginner Flutes

- Yamaha, Yamaha, and Yamaha!

I am *not* a paid endorser, just a very happy, long-time customer!

Guess What...

Students DO Want to Sound
GREAT!

Questions???