Flute/Piccolo Care

- When assembling your instrument, be careful that pressure is not applied to the keys or rods. Do not put it together at an angle and then wiggle it together. Make certain each part is properly lined up straight and use a twisting motion when assembling. When assembled correctly, the lip plate hole should line up with the first key of the body and the rod of the footjoint with the center of the D key. Clean the receivers with a cotton cloth or alcohol pad.
- Always clean your instrument after playing it. The cloth must cover the end of the cleaning rod when swabbing the instrument. Lay the cloth open to dry. Be careful with metal cleaning rods as they can scratch the inside of a silver instrument.
- Wipe off the body of the instrument and keys with a soft, cotton cloth. Be careful not to rub the pads as this will damage them. Do not use silver polish on the instrument.
- Use a cleaning rod to check the end plug distance on the headjoint. The notch of the cleaning rod should be in the exact center of the lip plate hole.
- Use a soft paintbrush or pipe cleaner (bent over) to clean the dust and dirt between the keys and rods. Be careful not to poke into the soft material of the pads.
- Check your pivot rods and screws to make sure they are secure. Do not touch the adjustment screws! The pivot screws should be oiled and move freely.
- Check your pads for wear and discoloration. Worn-out pads will not seal and will make playing the instrument more difficult. Sticky pads can be cleaned by holding paper or money under the pad and pulling it out while holding the pad down.
- Vacuum the case to keep it free from lint and other debris that may get caught in the key work. Padsavers often leave lint and threads in the case that are transferred onto the instrument.

GENERAL:
- Never leave your instrument on the ground, on a chair, on a music stand, etc. Always keep your instrument in your hand or in the case.
- Do not leave your instrument unattended. It takes very little time for someone to steal your instrument. Have the model number and serial number written down at home in a safe place.
- Do not let someone else use your instrument. Don’t assume that everyone knows how to hold and care for a musical instrument.
- Be good to your instrument and it will be good to you!
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet Care

- When assembling your instrument, be careful that pressure is not applied to the keys or rods. Do not put it together at an angle and then wiggle it together. Make certain each part is properly lined up straight and use a twisting motion when assembling. When assembling the middle joint, the rings on the upper joint must be depressed to allow the bridge keys room to connect. Make certain the bridge keys are properly aligned.

- Rub cork grease into the tenon corks. Cork fluid does not work as well because it becomes gummy with time. If the corks are not properly greased, excessive pressure against the keywork will be necessary for assembly and will cause damage. Dry corks also break and are costly to be repaired.

- Always clean your instrument after playing it. The swab should be made of a material that absorbs moisture quickly (cotton or silk). Pull the swab from the bottom of the instrument though the top. Do not pull the swab through the mouthpiece as it will wear down the shape. Make certain there are no knots in the swab and it is opened fully before inserting it into the instrument. Lay the swab open to dry.

- Use a mouthpiece mouse to clean the mouthpiece daily. Once a week, wash the mouthpiece with dish soap and lukewarm water using a soft mouthpiece brush. Never use hot water on the mouthpiece as it will change the shape. Change the mouthpiece patch when it has been worn through.

- Wipe off the body of the instrument and keys with a soft, cotton cloth. Do not use silver polish on the instrument.

- Use a soft paintbrush or pipe cleaner (bent over) to clean the dust and dirt between the keys and rods. Be careful not to poke into the soft material of the pads.

- Check your pivot rods and screws to make sure they are secure. Do not touch the adjustment screws! The pivot screws should be oiled and move freely.

- Check your pads for wear and discoloration. Worn-out pads will not seal and will make playing the instrument more difficult. Keep moisture away from the pads. Padsavers often leave lint and threads in the case that are transferred onto the instrument.

- Always keep 3 reeds and rotate them. That way you always have one that is broken in and ready to go. Keep the reeds in a reed case that protects them and allows them to dry properly. Do not store a reed on the mouthpiece.

- Use water to soak your reeds rather than saliva. The reeds will absorb the water faster and hold it longer. There is also less of a chance of damaging the reed with your teeth.

GENERAL:

- Never leave your instrument on the ground, on a chair, on a music stand, etc. Always keep your instrument in your hand or in the case.

- Do not stand your clarinet on the bell on the ground. It is front heavy with the keys and will easily fall forward and bend the keywork. Your mouthpiece could also chip or crack.

- Do not leave your instrument unattended. It takes very little time for someone to steal your instrument. Have the model number and serial number written down at home in a safe place.

- Do not let someone else use your instrument. Don’t assume that everyone knows how to hold and care for a musical instrument.

- Be good to your instrument and it will be good to you!
Saxophone Care

- When assembling your instrument, be careful that pressure is not applied to the keys or rods. Do not put it together at an angle and then wiggle it together. Make certain each part is properly lined up straight and use a twisting motion when assembling. When assembling the neck, be careful not to damage the octave mechanism. Clean the neck tenon with a cotton cloth or alcohol pad.
- Rub cork grease into the neck cork. Cork fluid does not work as well because it becomes gummy with time. If the cork is not properly greased, the cork may break off.
- Always clean your instrument after playing it. The swab should be made of a material that absorbs moisture quickly (cotton or silk). Pull the swab from the bottom of the instrument though the top. Use a smaller swab for the neck joint. Do not pull the swab through the mouthpiece as it will wear down the shape. Make certain there are no knots in the swab and it is opened fully before inserting it into the instrument. Lay the swab open to dry.
- Use a mouthpiece mouse to clean the mouthpiece daily. Once a week, wash the mouthpiece with dish soap and lukewarm water using a soft mouthpiece brush. Never use hot water on the mouthpiece as it will change the shape of it. Change the mouthpiece patch when it has been worn through.
- Wipe off the body of the instrument and keys with a soft, cotton cloth. Do not use brass polish on the instrument.
- Use a soft paintbrush or pipe cleaner (bent over) to clean the dust and dirt between the keys and rods. Be careful not to poke into the soft material of the pads.
- Check your pivot rods and screws to make sure they are secure. Do not touch the adjustment screws! The pivot screws should be oiled and move freely.
- Check your pads for wear and discoloration. Worn-out pads will not seal and will make playing the instrument more difficult. Keep moisture away from the pads. Sticky pads can be cleaned by holding paper or money under the pad and pulling it out while holding the pad down.
- Vacuum the case to keep it free from lint and other debris that may get caught in the key work. Padsavers often leave lint and threads in the case that are transferred onto the instrument.
- Always keep 3 reeds and rotate them. That way you always have one that is broken in and ready to go. Keep the reeds in a reed case that protects them and allows them to dry properly. Do not store a reed on the mouthpiece.
- Use water to soak your reeds rather than saliva. The reeds will absorb the water faster and hold it longer. There is also less of a chance of damaging the reed with your teeth.

GENERAL:
- Never leave your instrument on the ground, on a chair, on a music stand, etc. Always keep your instrument in your hand or in the case.
- Do not leave your instrument unattended. It takes very little time for someone to steal your instrument. Have the model number and serial number written down at home in a safe place.
- Do not let someone else use your instrument. Don’t assume that everyone knows how to hold and care for a musical instrument.
- Be good to your instrument and it will be good to you!
Oboe Care

- When assembling your instrument, be careful that pressure is not applied to the keys or rods. Do not put it together at an angle and then wiggle it together. Make certain each part is properly lined up straight and use a twisting motion when assembling. When assembling the middle joint, allow the 2 sets of bridge keys room to connect. Make certain the bridge keys are properly aligned.
- Rub cork grease into the tenon corks. Cork fluid does not work as well because it becomes gummy with time. If the corks are not properly greased, excessive pressure against the keywork will be necessary for assembly and will cause damage. Dry corks also break and are costly to be repaired. Do not use cork grease on the reed cork, but instead, sand it with an emery board until it fits properly. Don’t sand too much!
- Always clean your instrument after playing it. The swab should be made of a material that absorbs moisture quickly (cotton or silk). Take the instrument apart at the middle before swabbing. Pull the swab from the bottom of the instrument though the lower joint. Then pull the swab part way through the upper joint and back out where it started. Some special silk swabs are made to go all the way through the upper joint, but other swabs are not. Make certain there are no knots in the swab and it is opened fully before inserting it into the instrument. Lay the swab open to dry.
- Wipe off the body of the instrument and keys with a soft, cotton cloth. Do not use silver polish on the instrument.
- Use a soft paintbrush or pipe cleaner (bent over) to clean the dust and dirt between the keys and rods. Be careful not to poke into the soft material of the pads.
- Check your pivot rods and screws to make sure they are secure. Do not touch the adjustment screws! The pivot screws should be oiled and move freely.
- Check your pads for wear and discoloration. Worn-out pads will not seal and will make playing the instrument more difficult. Keep moisture away from the pads. Sticky pads can be cleaned by holding paper or money under the pad and pulling it out while holding the pad down.
- Vacuum the case to keep it free from lint and other debris that may get caught in the key work. Padsavers often leave lint and threads in the case that are transferred onto the instrument.
- Always keep 3 reeds and rotate them. That way you always have one that is broken in and ready to go. Keep the reeds in a reed case that protects them and allows them to dry properly.
- Use water to soak your reeds rather than saliva. The reeds will absorb the water faster and hold it longer. There is also less of a chance of damaging the reed with your teeth.

GENERAL:
- Never leave your instrument on the ground, on a chair, on a music stand, etc. Always keep your instrument in your hand or in the case.
- Do not leave your instrument unattended. It takes very little time for someone to steal your instrument. Have the model number and serial number written down at home in a safe place.
- Do not let someone else use your instrument. Don’t assume that everyone knows how to hold and care for a musical instrument.
- Be good to your instrument and it will be good to you!
Bassoon Care

- When assembling your instrument, be careful that pressure is not applied to the keys or long rods. Do not put it together at an angle and then wiggle it together. Make certain each part is properly lined up straight and use a twisting motion when assembling. When assembling the boot joint to the wing joint, be careful of the whisper key bridge.
- Do not put the bocal on until you are seated where you are going to play. Be very careful with the bocal as it will bend easily. Apply even pressure at the end with the cork. Always remove the bocal when moving with the instrument.
- Rub cork grease into the tenon corks. Cork fluid does not work as well because it becomes gummy with time. If the corks are not properly greased, excessive pressure against the keywork will be necessary for assembly and will cause damage. Dry corks also break and are costly to be repaired.
- If the reed does not fit securely onto the bocal, use a reamer on the reed while it is dry. Check the fit after reaming each time.
- Always clean your instrument after playing it. The swab should be made of a material that absorbs moisture quickly (cotton or silk). You should only swab the wing joint and the boot. Most bassoon swabs are not made to go completely through the wing joint. Put it part way through and back out again. The boot joint swab will have a weight or chain to get it around the curve. Always start from the larger hole. Make certain there are no knots in the swab and it is opened fully before inserting it into the instrument. Lay the swab open to dry.
- Wipe off the body of the instrument and keys with a soft, cotton cloth. Do not use silver polish on the instrument.
- Use a soft paintbrush or pipe cleaner (bent over) to clean the dust and dirt between the keys and rods. Be careful not to poke into the soft material of the pads.
- Check your pivot rods and screws to make sure they are secure. The pivot screws should be oiled and move freely.
- Check your pads for wear and discoloration. Worn-out pads will not seal and will make playing the instrument more difficult. Keep moisture away from the pads. Sticky pads can be cleaned by holding paper or money under the pad and pulling it out while holding the pad down.
- Vacuum the case to keep it free from lint and other debris that may get caught in the key work.
- Always keep 3 reeds and rotate them. That way you always have one that is broken in and ready to go. Keep the reeds in a reed case that protects them and allows them to dry properly.
- Use water to soak your reeds rather than saliva. The reeds will absorb the water faster and hold it longer. There is also less of a chance of damaging the reed with your teeth.

GENERAL:
- Never leave your instrument on the ground, on a chair, on a music stand, etc. Always keep your instrument in your hand or in the case.
- Do not leave your instrument unattended. It takes very little time for someone to steal your instrument. Have the model number and serial number written down at home in a safe place.
- Do not let someone else use your instrument. Don’t assume that everyone knows how to hold and care for a musical instrument.
- Be good to your instrument and it will be good to you!
Care of Brasswinds

- Keep the body of the instrument clean by wiping it off with a soft, cotton cloth. Do not use silver or brass polish on the instrument.

- **Trumpet/Baritone/Tuba** - Keep your valves oiled with valve oil. Put the oil directly onto the exposed valve. Don’t over oil the valves. **French Horn** - Keep your rotors oiled with rotary oil. Pull the tuning slides and drop the oil directly into the hole. **Trombone** – Keep the slide locked when not in use. Keep your slide greased with slide grease. Use a spray bottle filled with water to keep the slide lubricated in rehearsal.

- Clean the mouthpiece weekly with warm water, dish soap, and a mouthpiece brush. If the silver plating on your mouthpiece is worn off and the brass is exposed where you place your lips, you need to replace your mouthpiece.

- Keep the tuning slides greased so they move easily. To remove the slides, depress the key/button that affect that slide and gently pull it out. If the key is not depressed, the slide will make a popping noise. This improper action can result in leaks in the slide or the valve casing. Periodically clean the inside of the tuning slides with a snake and water. Also, clean the slide receiver with water and a cotton cloth and then re-grease the end before re-inserting it.

- Check the water valves for leaks.

- If dents occur they can be hammered out by a competent repair-person. Dents in the tubing bell are less serious than dents near the mouthpiece.

- Vacuum the case to keep it free from lint and other debris that may get caught in the valves or rotors.

**GENERAL:**

- Never leave your instrument on the ground, on a chair, on a music stand, etc. Always keep your instrument in your hand or in the case.

- Do not leave your instrument unattended. It takes very little time for someone to steal your instrument. Have the model number and serial number written down at home in a safe place.

- Do not let someone else use your instrument. Don’t assume that everyone knows how to hold and care for a musical instrument.

- Be good to your instrument and it will be good to you!