

High School Clinic Sheet

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Your Instrument

Gear

- The most important part of the instrument is the mouthpiece and/or reed. This is the source of your sound
- Good professional mouthpieces and reeds are less expensive than professional level instruments and make more of a difference to your sound
- If you are looking to purchase an instrument, make sure it is an instrument your professor is willing to work with

Reedcare

- It's important to rotate your reeds to lengthen their life. It is also beneficial to have multiple reeds ready for a performance
- Have a good reed case, look for one that can hold multiple reeds and offers humidity control
- Do not keep reeds in water
- Put away the reed after each use

Maintenance

- Cork grease and valve oil are a must. Mouthpiece patches can be useful for single reed instruments
- Clean your mouthpiece and instrument after every practice. Dirty woodwind mouthpieces can eventually grow mold and make you sick with "clarinet lung"

Listening to Music

Listen

- Listen to professionals play your instrument, know their names and important details about them
- Listen to prominent composers who have written for your instrument

Classical YouTube channels/video

- The US Army Field Band
- RCmusic
- New York Philharmonic
- The University of Texas Bands
- University of North Texas College of Music

Jazz YouTube channels/videos

- Jazz at Lincoln Center's Jazz Academy
- BeatBox Sax
- Jeff Antoniuk Digging Deeper Series

Practicing

Different Ways to Practice

- Are you using correct embouchure, air flow, and appropriate amount of mouthpiece?
- Is the reed still intact or is it chipped? Is it in the right place on the mouthpiece?
- Does it sound good? – Can you improve any of the above?
- Are you practicing something you already know how to do? or are you working on something new?
- What are my goals? – Is it right rhythms, notes, or improving the use of air?

Playing

- Remember that you are playing music, it should be fun!
- If you have stage fright, it is completely normal! The only way to overcome this is to play in front of others more! Find places to perform, whether it be a local coffee shop, a friends house, or at school events
- The more you play, the more you get used to performing and will become comfortable doing so

Ensemble Playing

Listening

- Can you hear the people beside you?
- Who has the melody?
- Are you playing at a solo or ensemble dynamic?
- Can you hear all the layers of the Pyramid of Sound?

Practice your part before rehearsal

- Rehearsal is to help support other parts and put the puzzle together, not to learn your own part
- Listening to the pieces will help you learn the other sections parts so you know how you fit into the music
- Help out your stand partner in a supportive way to help make a strong section work as a unit

Auditioning at University/College

Professors

- Who you will be studying with will be one of the most important factors of your musical career
- This will be a person you will see multiple times a week for the next four years, you want to make sure you're compatible with their teaching style
- Meet them, and try to set up a lesson with them before your audition

Audition Rep

- RCM Syllabus is a great resource for picking rep, universities typically look for people playing at a grade 8 level
- Look up the university studios you're auditioning for and see if you can find a syllabus with suggested repertoire for each year. Suggested repertoire for first years is a great suggestion for what to play on auditions