Instrument: Oboe

Magazine or Journal Title: The Instrumentalist

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Article Title: Making Reeds Behave

Author: Terri Armfield

Summary (Outline form):

* Reeds have short life, plus students buy poor ones
* Beginner should have soft to medium reed
* Hold reed to light to check for uniformity
* Reeds rarely work well the first time
* Need to break in the reed by soaking it
* Each time reed is soaked, fibers expand and they do not respond as well.
* Pinch tip to carefully close a reed that is too open
* Clip the tip of the oboe reed if it is too closed
* Scraping a reed can be done with a plaque and a reed knife or sandpaper knife
* Don’t scrap rails or spine ever or tip with sandpaper knife
* Scrape when reed is too hard and too hard to blow or the response is stuffy, when reed is too flat or pitch is unstable
* If the tone is too bright, clip the tip if it is still a good reed
* Make sure reed is symmetrical