Instrument: Oboe

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Article Title: Oboe Basics (Part I)

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Summary (Outline form):

* Embouchure
  + - * One of the most tiring embouchures
      * Good idea to have student start on different instrument first (sax) is good choice
      * Say “ee” with inside of mouth and “ooh”
      * Good exercise- playing dips- lipping up and down
      * Can pull out reed a millimeter but not much more for tuning
      * Form embouchure, breath and blow
    - Breath Support
      * If students don’t support correctly, could get dizzy
      * Hold oboe and position so you can play while they blow the air have them push down on your shoulders and stomach muscles automatically engage
      * Have students practice exhaling and then quickly inhaling so they don’t use stale air
    - Phrasing
      * Point out wrong and right places to breath
      * Round out sound by dampening reed with lips
    - Tonguing
      * Play long tones and interrupt air with tongue
      * Have them hum and play at the same time (helps with support of embouchure
    - Fingering
      * Sometimes band parts not written well for oboe
      * Many different f fingerings
      * Half holing is another problem
      * Thumb register key through high a flat then switch to side
      * E flat to d flat is another fingering switch
      * Sometimes necessary to change parts
    - Assembly/Disassembly
      * Wooden oboe is in danger of cracking-warm up before playing
      * Be very careful to not bend the keys when taking apart
      * Make sure to swab instrument with feather or cloth
      * If cloth gets stuck, take knitting needle or piccolo cleaning rod to push it through