Article Summary

*Pedagogy (2)*

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**Article Title**: *Oboe Basics (Part I)*

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**INSTRUMENT**: Oboe

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**Summary**:

1. Selecting student oboists
   1. Personality
      1. Is the student one who will thrive by playing something challenging and different?
2. Sound production
   1. Be patient for the first several months with volume.
   2. Encourage the student to play with different colors, but not until they have produced a good sound.
   3. Many oboists will play without good breath support because they are too loud. First encourage correct sound and tone production before worrying about dynamics and colors.
3. Reeds
   1. The best reeds are hand-made
   2. Reeds are very affected by humidity and resistance of the instrument itself
   3. Should look for a reed that has a fairly large opening for beginning
      1. Reeds with too large of a hole are too hard to control
   4. Can use sandpaper to break in the reed and make fine adjustments
   5. A blade can also be used for adjustments
4. Mechanism
   1. Oboes are very fragile, so discourage students from messing with any of the keys or mechanisms on the instrument. Do not attempt to fix it yourself either if you are not properly trained in how to fix the problem correctly.
   2. Make sure to line up the top and bottom joints correctly
   3. A common problem with the mechanism is that the octave keys tend to stick sometimes
   4. Water in the key is another problem
   5. The top two trill keys can also leak
   6. Another common problem is the pads on the little keys are not in proper contact to the instrument.