

# CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR INSTRUMENT

## FOR ALL WIND INSTRUMENTS:

- 1) Know how to assemble your instrument *properly*. Remember, only you should assemble and play your instrument.
- 2) Your mouth should be free of food or gum before blowing your instrument.
- 3) Clean the moisture out of your instrument after, and sometimes during, every practice or performance. Wipe off the outside of your instrument after each use as well.
- 4) Have the outside of your case labeled with your name (percussion also). Keep your instrument case clear of worn reeds and/or trash.
- 5) Store your instrument in the case. Do not leave your instrument in an unsafe position during practice time, at home or school.

## FLUTE

- 1) Have in your case a tuning/cleaning rod and a soft cloth.
- 2) Show how to tune your flute. (do not damage the cork)
- 3) Clean sticky pads with thin paper.

## OBOE

- 1) Have in your case a swab or feather, a soft cloth, cork grease, and 2 good reeds in cases.
- 2) Use cork grease to protect corks.
- 3) Soak cane reeds before using and store reeds properly.  
*caution:* Do not tighten adjustment screws.

## CLARINET

- 1) Have in your case a swab, a soft cloth, cork grease, 4 good reeds, and a mouthpiece cover.
- 2) Use cork grease to protect corks.
- 3) Store your reeds properly.
- 4) Clean the mouthpiece weekly and use the mouthpiece cap to protect your reed.

## SAXOPHONE

- 1) Have in your case a neck strap, cork grease, swab, a soft cloth, 4 good reeds, and a mouthpiece cap.
- 2) Use cork grease to protect corks.
- 3) Store reeds properly.
- 4) Clean the mouthpiece weekly and use the mouthpiece cap to protect your reed.  
*caution:* Handle your instrument by the bell so you will not bend the rods or keys. Handle the neck so as not to bend the register key.

\* I recommend reed guards for all reed players to protect and prolong the playing life of your reeds.

\* *Shove-its/pad savers are an alternative to swabs.*

## TRUMPET, BARITONE, and TUBA

- 1) Have in your case a soft cloth and valve oil.
- 2) Bathe mouthpiece and horn monthly and lubricate valves with oil as needed. Keep slides free-moving.

## HORN

- 1) Have in your case a soft cloth and rotary valve oil.
- 2) Keep your mouthpiece clean. Clean the lead pipe monthly. (Remove main tuning slide and run water through the lead pipe. A "snake" cleans it well.
- 3) Grease slides with lanolin or vaseline and use rotary valve oil in the valves to keep parts free moving.

## TROMBONE

- 1) Have in your case slide oil or slide cream and a water spray bottle.
- 2) Bathe horn and mouthpiece monthly and keep tuning slide and main slide lubricated and free moving.

*Brass Players ~ If your mouthpiece becomes stuck, do not attempt to remove it with force. See your director or an instrument repairman.*

## SNARE DRUM

- 1) Have a labeled stick bag with xylophone and marimba mallets and snare drum sticks. (Have a practice pad or drum at home to play on.)
- 2) Wipe off drum with a soft cloth weekly.