BASS CLARINET TIPS

courtesy of **ELLIS MUSIC**

ASSEMBLING THE INSTRUMENT

► A small amount of cork grease should be applied to the tenon corks the first time the instrument is assembled and any time it feels difficult to put together.

► Some bass clarinets have two sections with keys and some have just one. Assuming there are two sections, press down on the round keys of each section while assembling carefully using a gentle twisting motion, making sure to avoid bending keys or rods. The upper and lower section bridge keys must be aligned.

► Use a gentle twisting motion to attach the bell to the lower section.

► Attach the floor peg to the back of the bell and tighten the screw once the instrument is at the desired height.

► Use a gentle twisting motion to attach the neck to the upper section.

► Attach a reed to the mouthpiece, tightening the ligature to secure it.

Mouthpiece — Neck — Upper joint — Keys — Lower joint — Bell — Floor peg

Photo courtesy of Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal

CARE & MAINTENANCE

► Avoid eating or drinking (anything other than water) immediately before or while playing the instrument, or brush your teeth first.

► Use a swab to remove moisture from inside the instrument when you are done playing.

► Remove the reed after playing and put it in a reed holder.

► Clean the mouthpiece regularly in warm water using a mouthpiece brush and liquid soap.

► Store the instrument in its case when not in use.

► Send the instrument to the Ellis Music repair shop at least once a year for routine maintenance.

► If you have a wooden oboe, avoid extreme temperature/humidity levels and have the instrument professionally oiled once a year.

REED NOTES

► For beginners, a relatively soft reed (#2 or #2.5) will be easiest for producing a sound. As you gain experience, consider using a stiffer reed for improved tone.

► Bass clarinet reed strengths vary from #1 to #5. There are many different brands available.

HELPFUL ITEMS TO HAVE

• Reeds
• Reed holder
• Swab
• Cork grease
• Neck strap
• Woodwind mouthpiece brush
• Bass clarinet stand

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Questions?
Contact Ellis Music
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