

Kristen Boulet

Clarinet Equipment and Pedagogy Lecture/Masterclass c. 2020

Session 1 – Equipment 30 min. Lecture/20+ min. Hands On The Perfect Marriage

I. Mouthpiece

- a. Facing
 - Open
 - Medium
 - Closed
- b. Middle School Choices
 - M13 Lyre
 - M15
 - 5RV Lyre
- c. High School Choices
 - M15
 - BD4
 - BD5
- d. Bass Clarinets/Contra Alto
 - B50
 - BD5

II. Ligature

- b. Holds the reed on the mouthpiece.
 - Obvious
 - Definition of the word.
- c. Clarity
 - Articulation
- d. Color
 - Leather (i.e. Rovner) vs Metal
 - How different metals change the color.
 - Gold – warmest
 - Pewter – warm
 - Rose Gold – middle
 - Black – bright
 - Silver – brightest

III. Reed

- a. Understanding the strength.
- b. How it relates to the mouthpiece.
 - Strength to tip opening
 - Altitude
 - Climate
 - Embouchure
- c. Effects it can have on tone.
 - Fuzzy/Stuffy
 - Pitch
- d. Placement of the reed on the mouthpiece.
 - “even steven”
 - optical illusion
 - misconceptions
 - Tip adjustment/right to left
 - Tip adjustment/ up and down
- e. Placement of the ligature on the reed.
 - High = harder, can have more resistance, but can be stuffy.
 - Low = softer, can be unfocused, bright, and wild.
 - Perfect = focused.

Other Factors:

I. Clarinet

- a. Beginner Models
 - Buffet Prodigy
 - Buffet Ell
 - Yamaha
 - Vito
 - Serenade
 - Other
- b. Upgrade
 - When to upgrade.
 - What to upgrade.
 - How to upgrade.
 - Selmer Presence
 - Buffet R13
 - Yamaha

II. Barrell

- a. Advanced
- b. Some beginner clarinets come with an option.

III. Case

- a. Make sure it is functional.

IV. Reed Guard

- a. Make sure it can enhance the longevity of your reeds, not just a placemat.
- b. What are the things you look for.
 - Surface
 - Pressure
 - Circulation
 - Control of Humidity
 - Cost

V. Swab

- a. Silk vs Cloth vs Other
- b. How often.

VI. Cork Grease

- a. How often
- b. ingredients

VII. Patches

- a. Why
- b. Where to place on the mouthpiece.

VIII. Thumb Thing – optional

- a. Why
- b. Benefits

IX. Clarinet Stand – optional

- a. Why
- b. Benefits

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BDTS – Band Director Workshop

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Vandoren Artist Clinician

Selmer Paris Performing Artist

Conn Selmer Artist

Kristen Boulet is a graduate of Texas Tech University, 1990. Where she received her bachelor's degree in Music Education. She is currently in her 34th year as a music educator, clinician, and a performing artist. Kristen has her degree in Music Education K-12 and has studied clarinet with Forest Aten, Keith McCarty, Robert Wazel, Greg Raden, and Andy Crisanti.

Mrs. Boulet began her career as a band director working with middle and high school students in the Burleson and Lewisville ISD where her program grew to over 400 students at Huffines Middle School in the Lewisville ISD. Kristen is also the founder of the North Texas Clarinet Academy where she facilitates mini camps for beginners and clinics for all state preparation where professors like Dr. David Shea, Greg Raden, Gary Whitman, Dr. Kimberly Luevano, Dr. Suzanne Tirk and several others have come to work with students to sharpen their skills prior to auditions. Within this organization she helps provide scholarships for lessons and equipment for young clarinetists in need.

She just finished her 44th year to be involved with the Texas Tech Band and Orchestra Camp. She teaches the master classes and sectionals at the camp. Her first year as a camper was 1978.

Kristen is in her 18th season as a founding member with the Lone Star Wind Orchestra under the direction of Eugene Corporon. She performs as a free-lance musician across the metroplex with other symphonies and pit orchestras. She is a performing Artist with two major clarinet corporations. These are both very big honors. She is an Artist Clinician for Vandoren and a performing and educating Artist for Selmer-Paris and Conn Selmer. She travels across the great state of Texas and across the USA to work with many young clarinetists and has performed in various states across the nation and overseas. Most recently as a guest soloist in Georgia and Pennsylvania.

She currently has a thriving private clarinet studio where she works with over 80 students each year in the Carroll and Northwest ISD's. Kristen has many clarinet ensembles that have gone on to perform at different conventions such as Music for All, TSSEC, and ICA. Kristen has had numerous students make the all-state organization yearly, go on to be performing clarinetists and music educators.

She is a member of TBS, MPE, ICA, and TMEA. She lives in Roanoke, Texas with her husband Jim (Retired Director of Bands) and their two children Grace and Michael. Her children are her greatest joys. Her daughter Grace is a Graduate of Texas Tech. She plays piccolo and flute, was the president of the Goin Band, was in the Kappa Delta sorority and is a PR major. Her son Michael is a recent graduate of Northwest high school and will attend Rose State College to pursue his baseball and business career.