



BECOMING AN AWESOME OBOE PLAYER AND MUSICIAN

If you want to get serious about studying the oboe, here are some ideas about how to get there:

- Get a private teacher ASAP
 - A private teacher helps you fix the specific oboe problems you encounter and is an expert in the repertoire you need to know for oboe!
- Start purchasing handmade reeds, ideally from your private teacher
 - Store bought reeds just can't compete with handmade reeds—you can improve instantaneously just by getting better reeds.
- Start thinking about purchasing your own instrument, if you don't own an oboe already
 - This is a good thing to ask your private teacher about
 - Wood or plastic?
 - Brands: Lorée, Fox, Howarth, Yamaha, Lauben, Marigaux—there are lots of options!
- Get into the habit of practicing regularly (and practice smartly!)
 - Use the warm-up I included to get you started.
- Listen to great oboe players (get some CDs or look them up online). Here are a few to get you started:
 - Linda Strommen
 - Elaine Douvas
 - Eugene Izotov
 - Roger Roe
 - Frank Rosenwein
 - Albrecht Mayer
- When you're listening, explore solo repertoire, chamber music and orchestral excerpts to be well-informed about what the oboe can do!
- Attend any events you can to learn more about your instrument including camps, recitals, double reed days, orchestral and band concerts—everything helps make you a better musician!
- Finally, LOVE MUSIC ladies and gentlemen!
 - This is easy to do, and it will take you far!

PRACTICING SUGGESTIONS:

- Sing your part!
- Clap, dance or conduct along with the music
- Practice “slow-mo-expresso”
 - Practice in slow motion, but with all the expression that you'd include if you were playing at your normal tempo
- Simplify the music—leave out any grace notes or “extra notes”—think big picture
- Simplify the rhythm
- Play along with recordings

- Always play to your ideal sound and musicality—this will help you actually achieve that in your playing!

REPERTOIRE and RESOURCE SUGGESTIONS

- Repertoire (*It's always a good idea to build up your musical library*)
 - Barret Etude Book
 - Ferling Etude Book
 - Solo Repertoire Suggestions:
 - Mozart Concerto
 - Cimarosa Oboe
 - Marcello Concerto
 - Nielsen Romance and Humoresque
 - Plus, anything else you hear and love!
- Go ahead and purchase a good reed case (at least have storage for 5-10 reeds)
 - This encourages you to have more good reeds on hand
 - This will protect your reeds better than the plastic reed “coffins”
- Make sure you have:
 - A tuner
 - A metronome
 - Good swab
- Book: Sound in Motion—the best book out there to inspire your playing!
- Recordings:
 - John Mack’s Oboe Excerpts CD
 - Linda Strommen’s Down a River of Time recording
- Double Reed Vendors Online:
 - Midwest Musical Imports
 - RDG Woodwinds
 - Forrests Music
 - Trev-Co Varner Music (sheet music resource)

Please feel free to contact me about anything oboe related:

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