

Studio News

The Woodwind Studios of Katherine Peters

May

19

Spring Recital - 2:30

Cornerstone Lutheran Church - Carmel

4850 E Main St, Carmel 46033 (Use Door 1)
Mark your calendars - this is such a fun event!

Choosing Reed Strengths

All of your reeds look a little sad. Some have a corner chipped off, some are cracked down the middle, one even looks like it got a spiky haircut! Definitely not good for playing. Time for a new box of reeds, but how do you know if you should buy the same strength you were using or move up?

Some people will tell you that you should always be moving up while others argue that everyone should use soft reeds. I believe you should use the reed strength that best suits you. I often compare it to shoe sizes - you don't need a bigger shoe if the one you have fits. I know professionals who play on a 2 1/2, and I know professionals who play on a 5. You're not considered better just because you use a harder reed. That said, we have to figure out how to pick the best reed for you.

You should be able to make a solid, clear tone with a little effort. If you struggle just to make a sound with your current reed, if the sound that you get is airy and inconsistent, you may be using a reed that's too hard for you. If your tone is very loud, spread, and dotted with lots of squawks, your reed may be too soft. If you have a great

sound on lower notes but struggle to reach higher notes, you might experiment with a harder reed. If your articulation is heavy and slow even though you've been working on it, you might try a harder reed or a different cut in the strength you typically use.

Still not sure? Instead of buying a full box, get one reed of the same strength you've been using, one that's a half-strength softer, and one that's a half-strength harder. Break them all in and start playing - see which one sounds the best.



SOLO & ENSEMBLE

Well done, everyone! So many students chose difficult music this year. I'm proud of you for taking on the challenge and then following through. And a shout-out to our students who performed at State this year: Tommy Colton, Bobby Considine, Clare Dierckman, Billy Gregory, Lily Rollison, Maria Vivanco, DGM Clarinet Trio

March

Sat, 9 7:30 @PAL
Carmel Symphony
(alt. lesson schedule)

April

Fri, 12 8:00
Branford
Marsalis @ Clowes
Hall



Sat, 13 8:00 @ PAL
Carmel Symphony w/
Michael Feinstein
(alt. lesson schedule)

Sat, 27 7:30 @ PAL
Carmel Symphony
Mozart Requiem
(alt. lesson schedule)

May

Sun, 19 2:30
Spring Studio
Recital



20 - 27 No Lessons
Teacher Vacation

June

Sat, 1 All Day
Summer Term Begins

Fri, 14 TBA @Carmel
Gazebo
Indiana Wind Sym.
Side by Side Concert

What to Do After Cold or Flu

It's that time of year, and wow, it's been a doozy! Lots of students have been missing classes and lessons. Stay home, drink lots, and REST!

So you've been sick, but now you're feeling better and ready to start playing again. Those new reeds you were playing on when the sore throat started? It's possible for them to re-infect you. Do you have to throw them all away and start over? And your mouthpiece has been sitting all warm and cozy in the cap from the last time you played it. What do you do about that? No worries - here's a 30-minute fix.

Clarinet & Saxophone

You'll need:

- a bowl
- dish soap
- water
- paper towels
- Listerine (it must be antiseptic, not anti-cavity)
- a clean mirror or other flat, glass surface

Let's get going:

In your bowl, mix one part water to one part Listerine. Gently place your reeds into the solution and let soak for 5-10 minutes. While the reeds are soaking, get your mouthpiece and wash under COOL running water, using dish soap and scrubbing gently with a paper towel. (Clarinet students, try not to get the cork on the mouthpiece wet.) Rinse thoroughly and dry with another paper towel, then set the mouthpiece upright on the paper towel and allow to air dry completely - 15-20 minutes. When 5 minutes are up, take the reeds out of the Listerine solution, very carefully pat dry with a paper towel, then set on the mirror to air dry completely - 20-25 minutes. It's also a good idea to run your reed guard through the dishwasher - just put it in the silverware basket and let it air dry completely after the cycle is done. It wouldn't hurt to wash your swab, either. Zip it into a laundry bag or tie into a pillow case and toss it in with a load of clothes. When everything is dry, you're done! Glad you're feeling better, and happy practicing!



Flute

You'll need:

- rubbing alcohol
- paper towel
- Q-tips or cotton balls

Let's get going:

Dip a cotton ball into the rubbing alcohol, then clean the lip plate, making sure to go over the entire area and as far under the plate as you can get. Dip the cotton ball in alcohol again, then scrub the inside of the embouchure hole. Next, use a lightly damp paper towel to go over the entire head joint, then set aside to air dry 15-20 minutes. It wouldn't hurt to wash your swab, either. Zip it into a laundry bag or tie into a pillow case and toss it in with a load of clothes. When everything is dry, you're done! Glad you're feeling better, and happy practicing!



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SPEAKING OF SWABS

Please make sure you are keeping one in your instrument case. It shouldn't live at home.

It should go everywhere your instrument goes so it's ready to wick away the water that collects on the bore of your instrument when you play. If you need one, just bring me \$5 and I'll make one for you.