
MUSIC 352

Double Reed Methods: OBOE

Instructor: Christensen, Amy C [MUSIC]
E-Mail: achriste@iastate.edu
Phone: 515-505-2977
Office: RM 150A

Overview

Double Reeds Methods is an introductory course to bassoon and oboe for students in the instrumental music education program

Goals

- Provide the information necessary for students to give meaningful advice to beginning double reed instrumentalists
- Learn to perform at a rudimentary level on oboe and bassoon

Requirements

This is a hands-on course therefore attendance is mandatory. Each unexcused absence will lower your grade one full letter grade, and three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. In case of illness or other absence, students must notify me in advance in order to be excused.

Evaluation

- Daily Class Participation: 25%
- Teaching Final: 30%
- Written Final/Playing Final/Binder: 15% each

Course Schedule

August 23 Lesson 1: Review syllabus, collect emails, check out instruments, hand-out reeds/book/fingering chart Lesson 1: What makes a good oboe player

- Fingering Chart
- "Fundamentals of Oboe Playing" : Martin Schuring

August 25 Lesson 2: Reed and instrument care; Posture, playing position and embouchure

Materials

- Oboe and swab: distributed on the first day and collected the final day of class
- Reed: at least one working reed should be brought to every class. Reeds can be purchased on the first day of class for \$15/reed
- Reed soaker: film canisters or prescription medicine bottles work the best
- Three ring binder for notes and articles
- Gekeler Method for Oboe Book 1, available for purchase on first day of class

Class Participation

Be ready to play and participate in class discussions each day during which we will discuss a new aspect of the instrument using a variety of resources, including the Gekeler Method for Oboe, vol. 1 as well as a number of supplementary essays and articles on the lecture topics.

Binder

All class notes, supplementary essays

- C Scale (1 Octave)
- Gekeler pg. 6
- READING: “Embouchure”; “Embouchure troubleshooting” : Christa Garvey

August 30 Lesson 3: Breathing and blowing

- G Scale (1 Octave)
- Gekeler pg. 7
- READING: “Breathing...The Nuts and Bolts” : Christa Garvey
- READING: “How do woodwind instruments work”

September 1 Lesson 4: Articulation, attacks and releases

- D Scale (1 Octave)
- Gekeler pg. 28
- READING: “Articulation in More Detail” : Christa Garvey

September 6 Lesson 5: Tuning and tone

- F Scale (1 Octave)
- Gekeler pg. 16, #6 and 13, #3
- READING: “Intonation Exercises for Wind Players” : John Falcone
- READING: “Oboe Intonation: Pitch Constancy” : Orlan E. Thomas

September 8 Lesson 6: Finger facility

- Bb Scale (1 Octave)
- Gekeler pg. 20
- READING: “Is slow practice really necessary?” : Noa Kageyama
- READING: “Practice hacks” : Noa Kageyama

September 13 Lesson 7: Warm-ups, practicing and performing

- Bb Scale (1 Octave)
- Gekeler pg. 20
- READING: “Oboe warm-ups : selected exercises for embouchure strength and flexibility”
- READING: “Thoughts on practicing” : Martin Schuring

September 15 Lesson 8: Vibrato, dynamics and expression

- A Scale (1 Octave)
- Gekeler pg. 31
- READING: “Communication Through Music” : Jeremy Polmear

September 20 Lesson 9: Instruments and oboists of note

- Eb Scale (1 Octave)
- Gekeler pg. 22

and articles shall be collected in your binder and saved as a reference for you to use with future oboe students. Notes should be legible, neat and organized by date. They will be due on the last class before the final exam and will represent 20% of your final grade.

Scales/Final Exam

The playing final will include a written exam as well as a performance of several scales and exercises before the class. You may use your notes for the written exam, which will cover material taught in class as well as the supplementary literature. Teaching finals will be done individually. Please bring along a friend/volunteer to “teach”. I will provide a sign-up several weeks prior to the last week of class.

Discrimination

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. All students requesting accommodations are required to meet with staff in Student Disability Resources (SDR) to establish eligibility. A Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form will be provided to eligible students. The provision of reasonable accommodations in this course will be arranged after timely delivery of the SAAR form to the instructor. Students are encouraged to deliver completed SAAR forms as early in the semester as possible. SDR, a unit in the Dean of Students Office, is located in room 1076, Student Services Building or online at www.dso.iastate.edu/dr/. Contact SDR by e-mail at disabilityresources@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-294-7220 for additional information.

September 22 Lesson 10: Online resources for oboists; Repertoire for the beginning to advanced oboist

- Chromatic Scale (C to C, 2 Octaves), C scale (2 Octave)
- Gekeler pg. 39, #3

September 27 Reed-making demo

September 29 Scale review, discussion review, playing review

October 4 Playing final

October 6 Written final

October 10 Teaching final