Oboe Care Guide

Before Playing:

Always soak your reed in water, and use cork grease on the oboe joints as needed to ensure that assembly is easy.

After Playing:

Take your reed off and remove the excess water before storing it in your reed case. If you can, rotate which reed you play on daily.

Always swab out your instrument after playing to remove any moisture. A weighted swab is an excellent option. Never use cotton or flannel as they can leave lint residue inside your oboe.

- Bell & lower joint: place the swab through the bell end and pool it out through the other side.
- Upper joint: drop the weight of the swab in the large end (bigger hole) and then pull it through the instrument. Just pull it far enough through that the swab captures moisture from the instrument.

Storage:

Store your oboe properly in its case when you're not using it.

Never store your oboe in extreme hot or cold temperatures.

Loose items can damage your instrument. Do not put sheet music or other items in your case unless there is a designated compartment for them.

When carrying your oboe, double-check that the case latches are securely closed. It's a good idea to carry the lid of your case against your leg for extra protection.

Weekly Maintenance:

Wash your swab in warm water with a mild detergent once a week (or at least once a month depending on use). Allow it to fully dry before you use it again.

Use a soft cloth to wipe each key one by one, taking care not to snag any springs.

