

Productive Practicing: Some Recommendations

EQUIPMENT: All clarinet students are expected to own:

1. a professional quality clarinet(s) and mouthpiece
2. a metronome
3. a tuner (at least by the end of the sophomore year)
4. a dictionary of musical terms
5. a folder for carrying music or a case cover that will hold it
6. a small spiral-bound notebook devoted solely to the clarinet
7. optional: a good quality recording device (Sony professional model, etc.)

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

2. Set aside a definite regular time(s) for practicing, and don't let anything interfere with that time(s).
2. Be sure you understand each week's assignment and how to practice each item assigned.
3. Work particularly on improving fundamental playing problems noted in lessons.
Progress can be made only when fundamental problems are solved or improved.
4. Spend more time on matters with which you have problems, not on what you can already do well.
5. Continually work for accuracy and control. Speed will develop as other playing characteristics improve.
6. If you don't understand - ask questions!!!
7. Each category of practice should "carry over" into the other categories. Constantly look for opportunities to apply new playing techniques: fingerings, breathing, tone considerations, etc.
8. Alternate standing and sitting. Standing often encourages better habits of breathing.
9. Check frequently in a mirror (full length, if possible) for correct breathing habits and hand/finger position.
10. Buy as soon as possible all music that is assigned and TAKE CARE OF IT!
This music will become a part of your own library in future years.
11. Allow ample time each week for reed preparation.