

# noelle's oboe

## WORKSHOP


*Double Reed Instrument Repair - By Appointment Only*

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## Crack Prevention Guidelines

Wooden instruments require special care. New instruments can be especially prone to cracks, but a wooden instrument of any age may crack. Cracks typically happen in the winter months, and usually appear in the upper joint where the bore is smallest. It is very important that you follow certain guidelines to prevent cracks and keep your wood oboe in good working condition:

- Keep a small humidifier in your case, especially during the wintertime
- If your oboe is cold, before playing, gradually warm it up (especially the top joint) with your hands before blowing hot air through it
- Swab your oboe about every half hour, and always once you are done playing
- When not in use, always store your instrument safely in it's case and in a secure room with a moderate temperature

Keep in mind all wood has grain/texture. Some large grains look like a crack, while some small cracks may look like a grain. It can be useful to look over your instrument periodically, to learn where the grains are, and notice any changes. If you see something new, check for suction.

If your oboe does crack, it is fixable, by a skilled repair technician. As soon as you notice a crack, please stop playing the instrument. Playing on a cracked oboe will only worsen the problem. Do take a photo, and mark the location of the crack directly on the wood with a pencil, as they tend to open and close. Do not use any glues or attempt to fix it yourself. Make an appointment to have it repaired, and let me know if you would like to use a rental oboe while yours is being fixed.