

# noelle's oboe

## WORKSHOP

*Double Reed Instrument Repair - By Appointment Only*

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## Suggestions for Water Prevention in Tone Holes

Always brush your teeth prior to playing and **never start playing on a cold oboe.** Before blowing air into the instrument, be sure to physically warm it up from the outside, either with your hands or by placing the upper joint under your arm.

When you do begin playing, be sure to **start with low notes** in order to get the spit stream to bypass the octave vents and upper tone holes that tend to be the troublesome areas when it comes to water. Work on low note attacks/slurs/long tones for a couple minutes before playing anything with your left hand.

During rests, **always hold your instrument with the keys "face up."** Don't set your oboe in your lap with the keys facing down or all the moisture in the bore will run directly into the tone holes.

**Make sure that the reed itself is up to pitch.** If the reed is crowing flat, and you are consistently needing to blow it up to pitch, that can create water problems.

Pulling a dirty swab through the bore will cause buildup in the tone holes which will lead to water problems. **Be sure that your swab is kept clean.** This can be easily accomplished using soap and water. Replace your swab annually and do not use your swab to clean your tenons; use a different cloth for that purpose.

When the instrument is in the case, please **store it with the vents and trill tone holes open** to be sure everything dries out. You can easily slide a piece of folded cigarette paper under the pads or get more creative with props.

**Water removal:** Should you get water in your tone holes, be sure to clear it all out. To do so, first swab out the bore. Then blow into the tone hole directly with your lips or even better use a can of compressed air (sold to clean computer keyboards). Then dab any remaining moisture with a piece of cigarette paper or spit sponge microfiber cloth. This entire process may need to be repeated more than once.

If you are doing all of the above and still getting water in your tone holes, it's time to make a maintenance appointment to have your instrument disassembled and professionally cleaned.