

“Bassooner the Better” - Starting Beginning Bassoonists

The Midwest Clinic

Tuesday, December 20th, 2022 - 8:30 AM

Mr. Wes York - Malcom Bridge Middle School (wyork@oconeeschools.org)

Mr. Kyle Bickwit - East Hall Middle School (kyle.bickwit@hallco.org)

Common Bassoon Issues, Causes and Resolutions

Issue	Cause	Resolution
Poor Tone	❖ Bad Reed ❖ Improper Reed Tip Opening ❖ Bad Embouchure (Flat/Smile)	❖ Check for mold or aging on the reed. ❖ Nickel width tip opening ❖ “Kissy” face - rounder embouchure.
Bad Intonation	❖ Lack of Support with Abdominal Muscles ❖ Too much pressure (biting) ❖ Angle of Bocal	❖ Remind students to “support from the core.” Similar to a crunch. ❖ Rounder Embouchure
Lack of Dynamics	❖ Embouchure too tight ❖ Weak Airstream	❖ Rounder Embouchure ❖ Strong air, fast air.
Cracked Notes	❖ Incorrect Half Hole Opening ❖ Not Flicking or Venting Notes	❖ Half Hole on First Finger in Left Hand for F#, G, Ab, G, Ab ❖ Flick for A, Bb, B, C

Suggested Commercial Bassoon Reeds

Go Bassoon

www.gobassoon.com

Double or Nothing Reeds

www.doubleornothingreeds.com

Forrests Music

www.forrestsmusic.com

- Forrests Silver
- Albion Gold Label
- Vigder, Style A

Miller Marketing

<https://millermarketingco.com>

- Miller Select Reserve
- KJI Bassoon Reeds

Midwest Musical Imports

www.mmimports.com

- Merz Bassoon Reeds
- Weasel Bassoon Reeds

Bassoon Private Instructors by Georgia Region

North Georgia/Metro Atlanta/Athens - Shelly Unger

(rsunger@emory.edu), Amy Pollard (marinell@uga.edu),

Rachel Landers (www.rachellanders.com/scheduling),

Cassandra Roache, Andrew Johnson

(asjsn08@gmail.com), Erin Anderson

South Georgia - Nina Scheibe (nescheibe@valdosta.edu)

Western Georgia - Stephanie Patterson

(patterson_stephanie1@columbusstate.edu)

Eastern Georgia - Katie Bennett (kbennett@ccboe.net)

Brad Behr - Savannah (www.behr-bassoon.com)

Recommended Professional Examples	❖ Barrick Stees ❖ Andrew Brady ❖ Kristin Wolfe Jensen
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Photographs for Reference

"A natural" Flick Key



"Bb, B, C, D" Flick Key



Embouchure



Left Hand Position



Right Hand Position



Whisper Key



Hand Crutch



Half Hole (Left Hand)

