

Teachers: Make Friends With A Bassoon!

with Christopher Weait

Capital University Conservatory of Music

Emeritus professor, The Ohio State University

Sponsorship and instruments provided by

Fox Products Corporation

South Whitley, Indiana

Clinic Format

- 50 minutes
- Participants will play bassoons;
- Non-playing observers welcome
- PowerPoint slides
- Ensemble with participants
- Question and answer period at end **

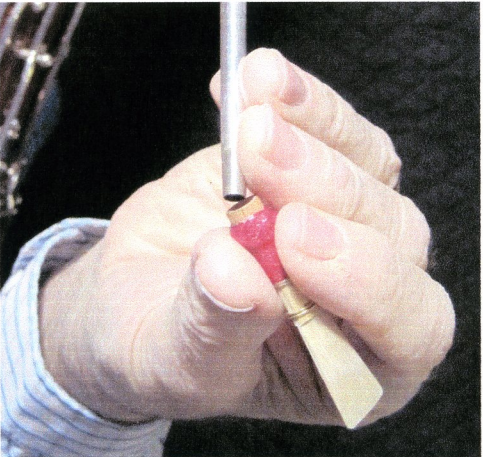
Clinic Equipment

- Fox bassoon in bassoon stand
- Bocal in bassoon bell
- Seat strap on chair
- Reed soaking in cup on right front chair leg **

Tooting on the Reed

- Carefully remove reed from water cup
 - Open mouth, place half of blade in middle of lower lip - push it slightly inward
 - Inhale
 - Close mouth over upper blade - don't bite the reed with your teeth!
 - Place tongue (above tongue tip) on reed tip
 - Toot !
- **

Putting Reed on Boccal



- Fingers on bocal: approach from side



- Twist back & forth - NOT like a bottle cap **

Tooting on Reed and Bocal

- Tooting the soaked reed on the bocal is a good way to get used to feeling the reed on the lips and
- Form embouchure without biting
- Should sound a pitch near “C”
- Correct use of the tongue can be heard (front of tongue behind tip touches tip of reed) **

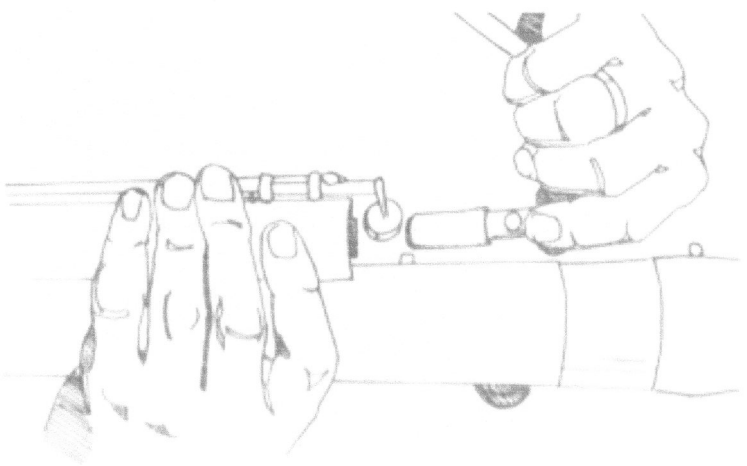
Bocal lengths

- Bocal lengths are numbered from shortest to longest: 0, 1, 2, 3
- Number is stamped on bocal
- Most often used is #2 bocal **



Inserting Bocal

- Grasp instrument with two hands: right hand below lowest metal band / hand rest
- Place bottom of bassoon on floor in front of you
- Grasp bocal close to cork end
- Firmly twist into receiver with back and forth motion.
- **DO NOT** insert by grasping near bocal tip **



Hooking Up !

- Move bassoon to your right thigh
- Hook seat strap onto butt cap on side opposite hand rest
- Line up bocal tip with your lips.
- Holding instrument with right hand, adjust bassoon's height by adjusting seat strap with left hand
- “Bring the bassoon to you” **

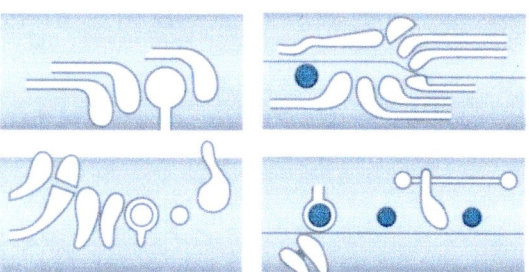
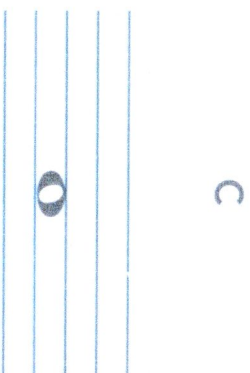
Before First Notes



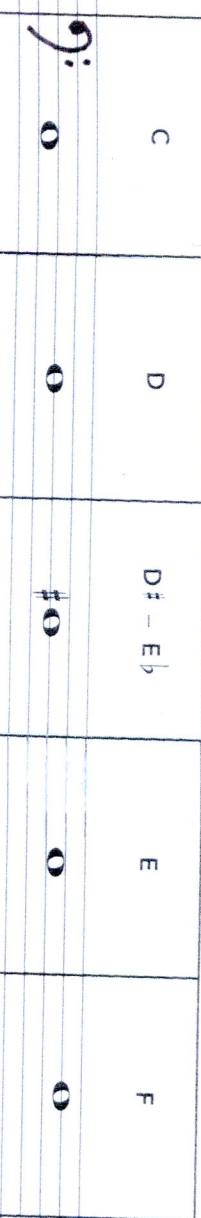
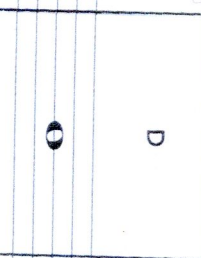
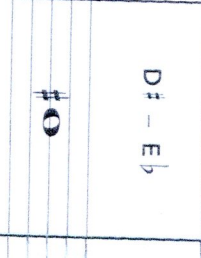
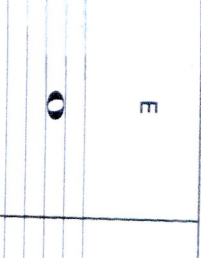
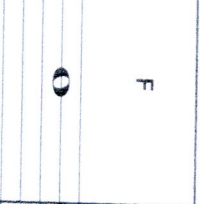
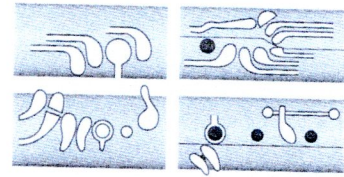
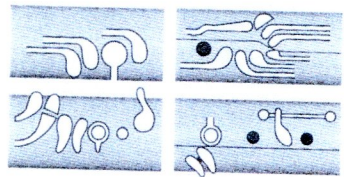
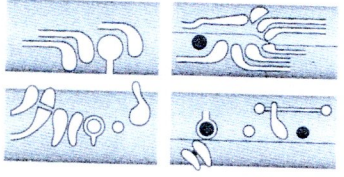
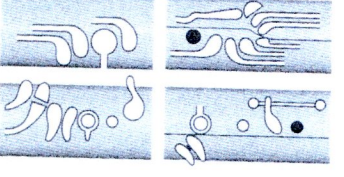
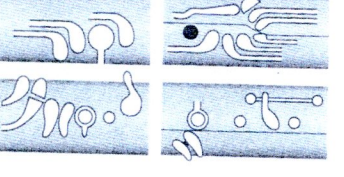
- To steady the bassoon, put the right hand around the top of the boot joint
- Place left thumb on the lowest key on wing joint - the 'whisper' key
- Cover tone holes with three fingers of left hand **

First Note (C3)

- Left thumb on whisper key for all of our notes today
- 3 left fingers on wing joint tone holes
- Let's play that note **



Next Left-Hand Notes

C	D	D $\sharp$ - E $\flat$	E	F
				
				

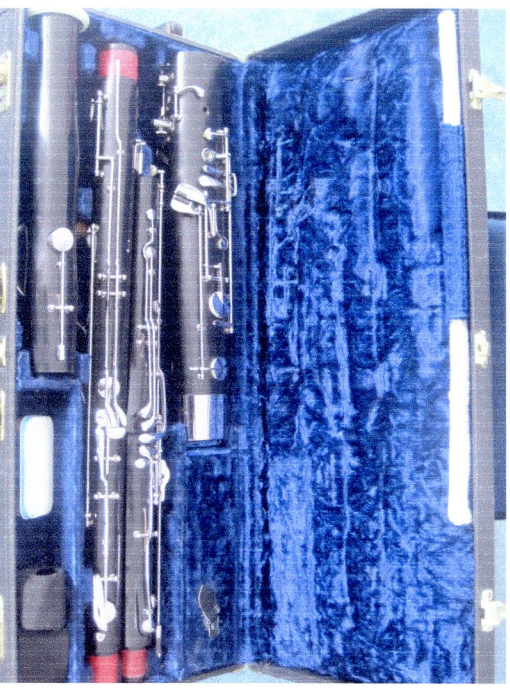
Carrying the Bassoon

- Bocal in bell, reed in case or in mouth
- Holding it upright, use two hands with one on the boot
- Beware door lintels
- Always remove reed and bocal when moving instrument **



Keeping it safe

- Best place to store it is in case
- Temporarily store in a secluded, carpeted corner **



Right Arm

- Using the hand rest gives good finger position



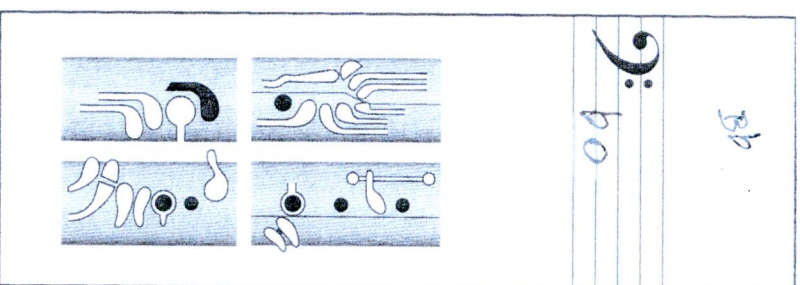
- Notice the elbow away from the body



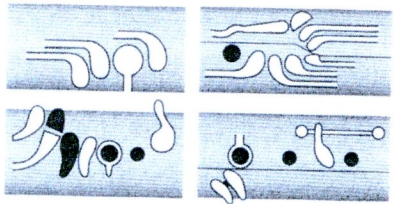
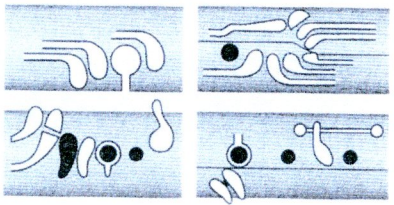
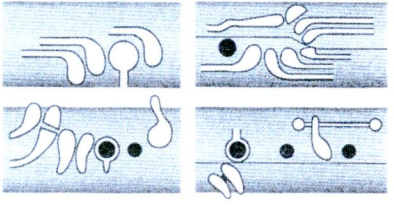
- AVOID bending wrist
**

B-flat

- Preferred fingering
- Place right thumb on key above ‘pancake’ key
- Place first two right fingers on top two tone holes **



More Notes in Right Hand

F	G	A
		
		

Choosing Potential Bassoonists

- Notice student's size and finger spread, double-joints
- Intelligent
- Self-starter
- Wants to play one-of-a-kind instrument
- Knows how to read music
- Previous woodwind experience, especially flute
- Might have to teach self! **

Bassoon Tone

- Exotic sound: full in low register; thins out as it ascends
- Can be comedic in staccato, melancholy in legato
- In comparison to a large ensemble's dynamics: bassoon dynamics are *pp - mf*
- Similar to other conical reed instruments - soft playing is difficult at first **

Intonation

- Most common overall problem is being too sharp
- Good reeds, firm air support with NO BITING will bring pitch down
- Double reeds: closed tip plays sharper
- Many bassoonists play too loud trying to be heard **

Bassoon in Ensembles

R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

TOCCATA MARZIALE

The image displays a musical score for the piece 'Toccata Marziale' by Vaughan Williams. The score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes staves for E♭ Alto Clarinet, B♭ Bass Clarinet, B♭ Soprano Saxophone, E♭ Alto Saxophone, B♭ Tenor Saxophone, E♭ Baritone Saxophone, B♭ Bass Saxophone & B♭ Contra Bass Clarinet, 1st Bassoon, 2nd Bassoon, Euphonium 2^a (Baritone), Basses, String Bass, Timpani F & B♭, and Drums. The second system continues the score with the same instruments. The tempo is marked 'Allegro maestoso' and the time signature is 4/4. The score is numbered 1 and 2.

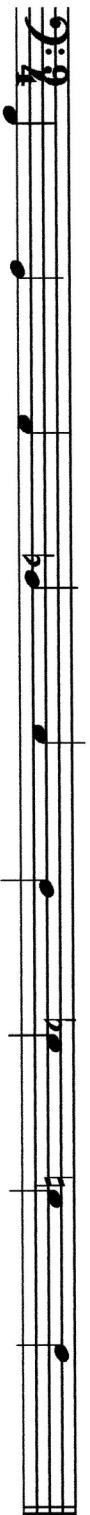
- Bassoon dynamics not loud (*pp - mf*)
- Doubled in band by euphoniums, trombones, bass clarinet, tubas etc.
- Often used on soft bass lines
- Encourage players by letting them be heard **

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QMB 234

Let's Play Some More Notes

- We've learned from F2 to F3 with these pitches



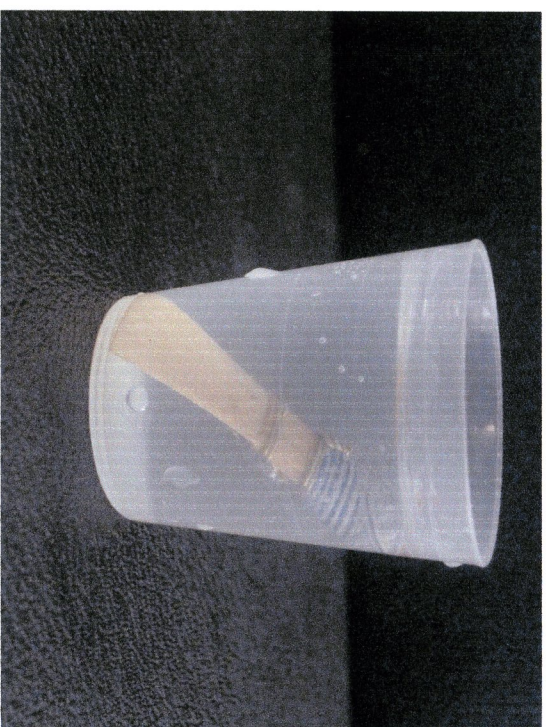
Reeds (1)

- Find a good source
- Range from \$10 - \$20 each
- Have some basic tools: plaque, mandrel, nail file, ruler, reamer, pliers
- What about a reed knife in school? **



Reeds (2)

- Soak entire reed, not just tip



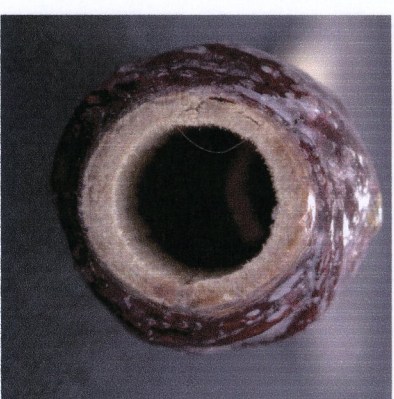
- Store only in reed case
NEVER back in plastic tubes **



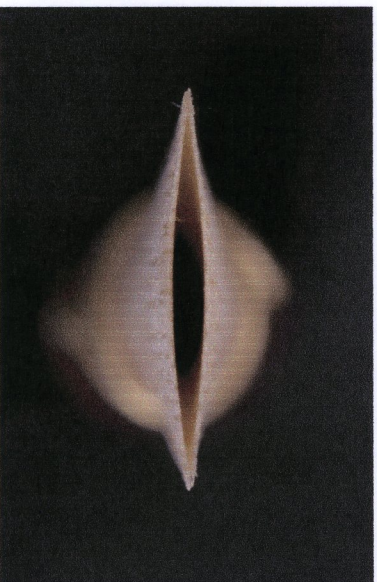
What is a “Good Reed”?



Bad butts !



Good butt !



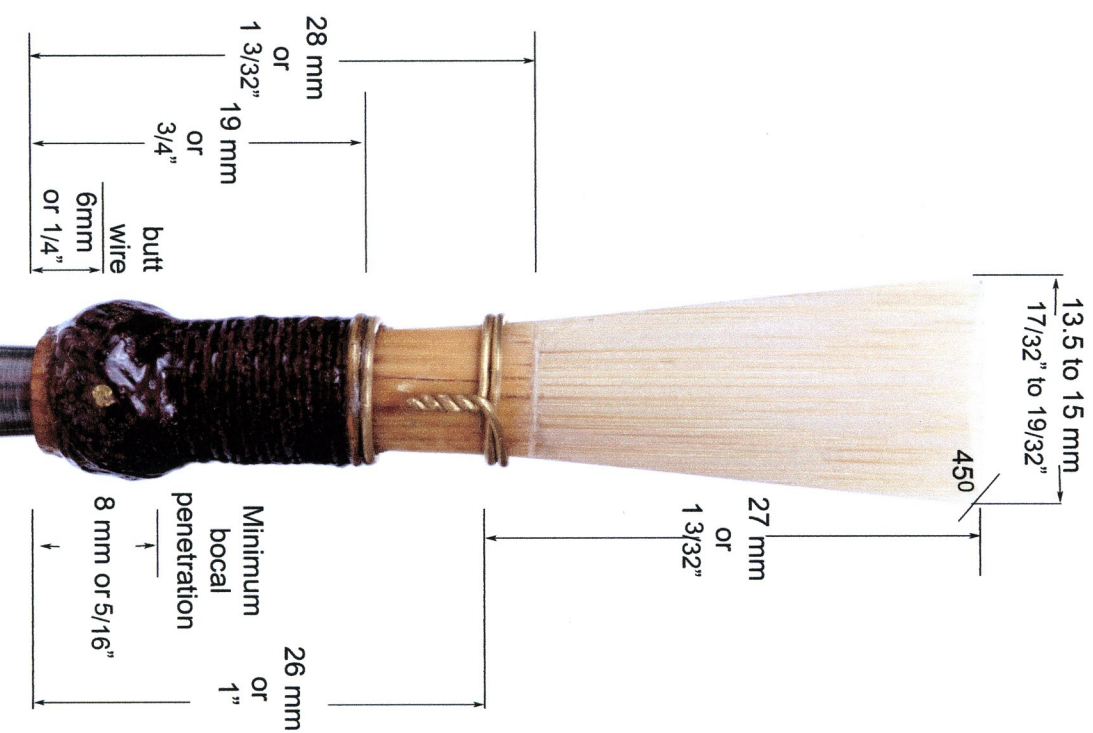
Good tip opening **

Make Friends With A Bassoon!

Reed

Measurements

- Measurements from my “Bassoon Reed-Making: An Illustrated Basic Method” and two-set DVD
- Also available: 10 minute DVD “Improve Your Bassoon Reed” for those who use store-bought reeds**

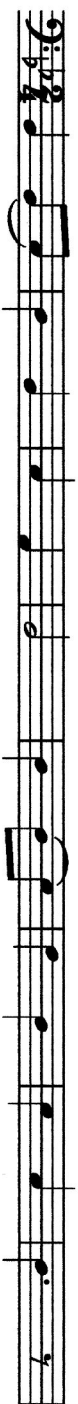


Mi Gallo

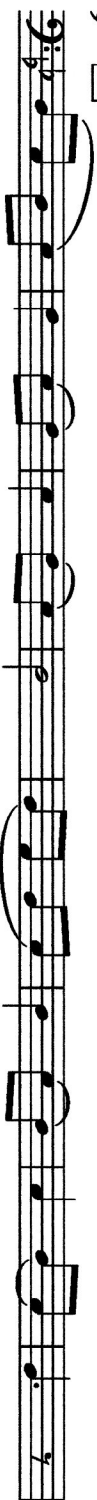
Costa Rica

Bassoon

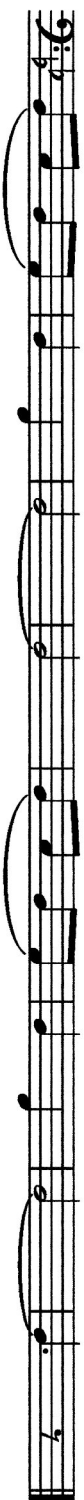
1 Moderato



2



3



1215

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Duet: Mi Gallo

Costa Rica
Arranged by Christophe Weait

1
Moderato

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2

2

Bn1

Bn2

3

Bn1

Bn2

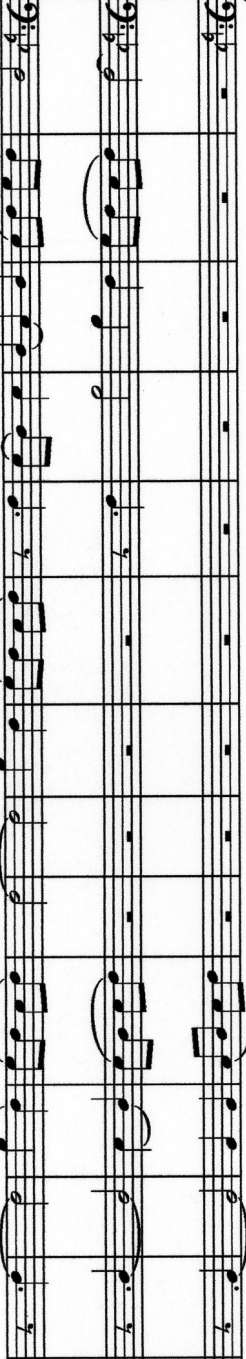
4

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1216

Make Friends With A Bassoon!





1

Moderato

Round: Mi Gallo

2

Freely adapted by Christophe Wea

Costa Ric

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Round: Mi Gallo". The tempo is marked "Moderato". The score is written for three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 2/4. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The third staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music is written in a round style, with the first staff playing the melody and the second and third staves providing accompaniment. The score is divided into two measures, each containing a measure for each staff. The first measure of the first staff contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The second measure of the first staff contains a half note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a half note G5. The second measure of the first staff is marked with a repeat sign. The second staff of the first measure contains a half note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, and a half note C4. The second staff of the second measure contains a half note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, and a half note G4. The third staff of the first measure contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a half note C3. The third staff of the second measure contains a half note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, and a half note G3. The score is written in a round style, with the first staff playing the melody and the second and third staves providing accompaniment. The score is divided into two measures, each containing a measure for each staff. The first measure of the first staff contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The second measure of the first staff contains a half note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a half note G5. The second measure of the first staff is marked with a repeat sign. The second staff of the first measure contains a half note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, and a half note C4. The second staff of the second measure contains a half note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, and a half note G4. The third staff of the first measure contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a half note C3. The third staff of the second measure contains a half note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, and a half note G3. The score is written in a round style, with the first staff playing the melody and the second and third staves providing accompaniment. The score is divided into two measures, each containing a measure for each staff. The first measure of the first staff contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The second measure of the first staff contains a half note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a half note G5. The second measure of the first staff is marked with a repeat sign. The second staff of the first measure contains a half note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, and a half note C4. The second staff of the second measure contains a half note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, and a half note G4. The third staff of the first measure contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a half note C3. The third staff of the second measure contains a half note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, and a half note G3.

TEACHERS: MAKE FRIENDS
WITH A BASSOON!

Question Period

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Teachers: We Hope You Have
Made Friends With A Bassoon!