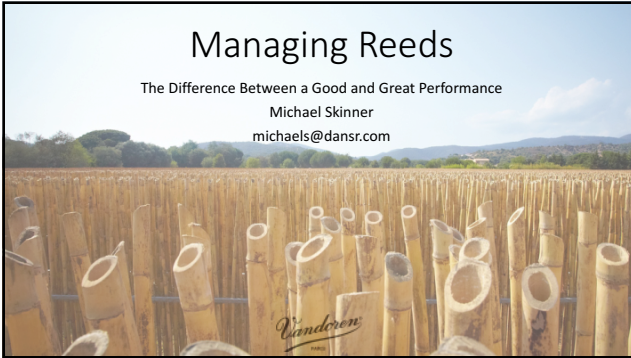


Managing Your Reeds

Managing Reeds

The Difference Between a Good and Great Performance
Michael Skinner
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Managing Reeds

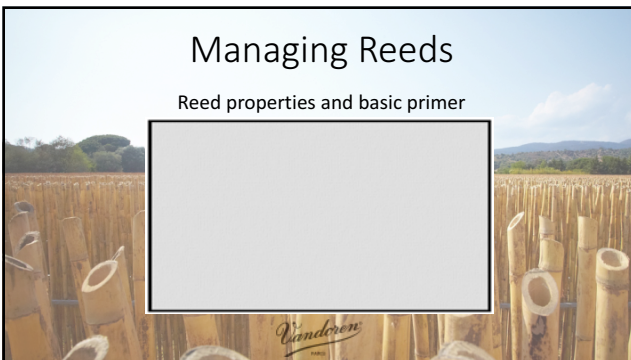

Basics of reed maintenance

- ROTATE THEM
 - Different reed every time
- Using different reeds builds better embouchures
- Using different reeds educates you on what you have
- Reeds will last longer
- Store them
- Don't prematurely discard them



Managing Reeds

Reed properties and basic primer



Managing Reeds

Reed properties and basic primer

In General...

- Thicker tips = more resistance
- Thinner tips = less resistance
- Hearts with less wood = brighter
- Heavier hearts = darker

****One size reed does not fit all****



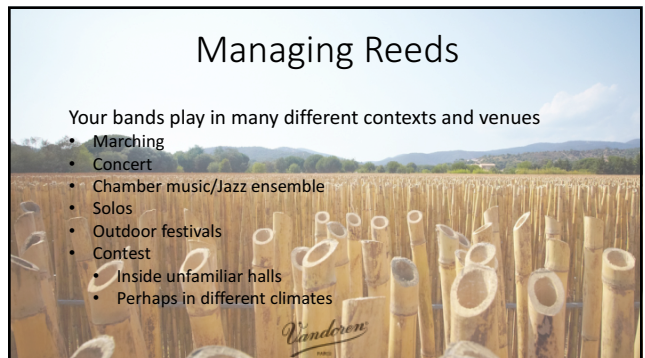
Managing Reeds



Managing Reeds

Your bands play in many different contexts and venues

- Marching
- Concert
- Chamber music/Jazz ensemble
- Solos
- Outdoor festivals
- Contest
 - Inside unfamiliar halls
 - Perhaps in different climates



Managing Your Reeds

What happens when things change?

You move from inside rehearsal to outside performance

- Temperature could change
- Humidity will change
- Requirements for performance can change

Usually, you will get better performance outside with a slightly softer reed

- quicker articulation
- better projection

Definition of “softer reed”

A reed that’s been fully broken in

A softer reed from the box

*a different cut – this is a last resort (my opinion)

What happens when things change?

You perform at a new hall – a place you have not played

And the hall is:

- Big – Normally softer will help
- Big and bouncy – Harder will help with control
- Big hall and big crowd – softer will help push through the extra sound absorption

Definition of “softer reed”

A reed that’s been fully broken in

A softer reed from the box

*a different cut – this is a last resort (my opinion)

Definition of “harder reed”

A reed that’s new or fairly new

A harder reed from the box

*a different cut – this is a last resort (my opinion)

How do you prepare for a concert at altitude?

Softer reed is more likely going to be better

How do you prepare your soloists and chamber groups for solo/ensemble?

Better to prepare a soft reed, a “regular” reed and a hard reed if you’re not familiar with the venue.

Definition of “softer reed”

A reed that’s been fully broken in

A softer reed from the box

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Definition of “harder reed”

A reed that’s new or fairly new

A harder reed from the box

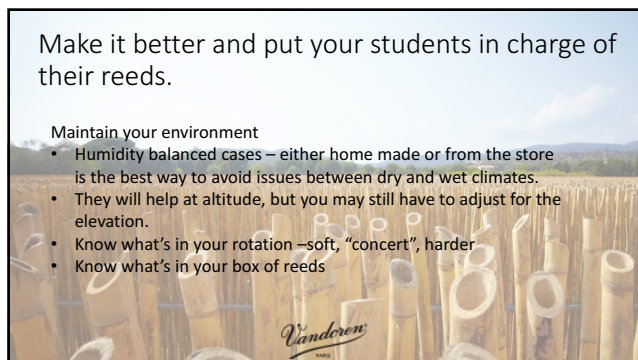
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Managing Your Reeds

Make it better and put your students in charge of their reeds.

Maintain your environment

- Humidity balanced cases – either home made or from the store is the best way to avoid issues between dry and wet climates.
- They will help at altitude, but you may still have to adjust for the elevation.
- Know what's in your rotation –soft, “concert”, harder
- Know what's in your box of reeds



Managing Reeds

Reeds are like tools. If you have a good variety, you'll find the one that will do the job.

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