

## 1 Starting Beginning Flute and Clarinet Students

- A Focus on Characteristic Tone Quality

- Dr. Lorie Enloe
- University of Idaho
- lenloe@uidaho.edu

## 2 Overview

- Knowing how to PLAY does not mean you know how to TEACH.
- Characteristic tone... Why?
- Preliminaries
- How do I get there?
- How do I help my students achieve characteristic tone?

## 3 It's ALL about teaching!

## 4 It /IS all about teaching: simple, step-by-step instructions with teacher modeling WORKS!

## 5 Characteristic Tone










is

**Important!**

- Who wants their band to sound bad?
- Effects perception of intonation (Gerringer & Worthy) - Bright tone sounds sharp, dark sound sounds flat.
- Effects perception of blend and balance
- BEGINNERS CAN SOUND GREAT IF YOU TEACH THEM AND EXPECT EXCELLENCE!

## 6 Preliminaries...

- Take control (where possible) of the brand of instruments that your students play.
- Where money is an issue - canvas the community for older good instruments needing new "homes."
- A good mouthpiece/reed combination can make a bad instrument sound better!
- My personal favorites - instruments, mouthpieces, and reeds.

- 7  **if you cannot model characteristic tone, find someone who can!**
- 8  **Exemplars**
- Flute: James Galway
  - Clarinet: Jon Manasse
- 9  **Descriptions**
- Flute: “Clear,” “Edgy,” “Focused” - NOT “airy” or “spread.”
  - Clarinet: “Dark,” “Dense,” “Focused” - NOT “bright” or “spread.”
- 10  **Flute Embouchure**
- NO INSTRUMENTS FIRST DAY: Start with nothing, then move to head joint.
  - MUST have locker mirror on stands!
  - Steps to form correct embouchure: Volunteer!!!!
  - Whoosh - Sound like a helicopter
  - Move to the head joint
- 11  **Flute Whoosh**
- 12  **Clarinet Embouchure**
- Start with barrel, mouthpiece, reed, ligature.
  - MUST have locker mirror on stand
  - Steps to form correct embouchure: Volunteer!!!
  - Do not put instruments together on first day.
- 13  **Excellent Clarinet Embouchure**
- 14  **Flute Trouble Shooting**
- Airy Sound:
    - Aperture TOO large
    - Aperture wide and thin, not round
    - Lip tab - Do smart recruiting! Know how to help a student with a lip tab if you have to go there.
- 15  **Clarinet Trouble Shooting**
- Bright, thin tone: Smiling and or too little mouthpiece in the mouth. Also biting with jaw or too tight upper lip. Strawberry chin leads to biting!
  - Spread tone - tongue position too low. Blowing “haw” puts back of tongue too low. Teach blowing cold air vs. warm air
  - Flat tone: teeth not contacting top of mouthpiece or lip

muscles not supporting the mouthpiece. Check it!

■ Raucous tone - too much mouthpiece in the mouth

- 16  **Don't assemble instruments until students can get characteristic tone on head joint or mouthpiece and barrel!**
- 17  **You need to make a decision about how dedicated you are going to be about insisting on great tone!**
- 18  **Questions?**