

## HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR CLARINET

Your instrument will have been provided by Severn Arts ready to play, having been fully serviced. Please follow the basic points below to help ensure that it is maintained in good condition and can help you achieve the best sound.

You will be shown how to set up the clarinet by the teacher but as a quick reminder:

- Take the instrument out of the case carefully.
- Hold the bell in the right hand and the lower joint, (this is nearest to front of the case) in your left hand. Try to avoid touching or putting pressure on any of the keys. Put the cork end into the bell and gently twist the two parts together.
- Hold the upper joint in your left hand and gently close the ring keys on the front of the instrument.
- Hold the two parts you have joined in your right hand while you put the upper and lower parts together. Make sure the holes on both parts are in line while you put them together and gently twist. Release the ring keys once you have put them together.
- Put the mouthpiece and barrel on to the top part of the instrument.

The mouthpiece is already set up and left ready to play in the case, but if you need to re-assemble:

- Take the cap off.
  - Put the flat side of the reed against the flat side of the mouthpiece, and carefully put the ligature over the reed and mouthpiece with the screws pointing to the right. Be very careful the reed doesn't get damaged when the ligature goes over.
  - Put the reed tip just below the top of the mouthpiece.
  - The top of the ligature needs to be just below U shape on the reed.
  - Do the screws up but not too tightly.
  - Put on to the rest of the clarinet with the reed facing down.
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- Always keep the instrument in the case when not being used.
  - Always keep your instrument secure and in a safe place.
  - Make sure you do not mix up your case or instrument with others.
  - It is recommended that you do not allow others to play your instrument.