



Placing the Right Kids on Oboe and Bassoon

CLINICIANS:

Jennifer Auerbach and Sally Bohls

Texas Bandmasters Association 2012 Convention/Clinic



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**JULY 20 - 23, 2012
HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

Placing the Right Kid on Oboe & Bassoon

TBA Clinic: Sally Bohls and Jennifer Auerbach

July 22, 2012 - 4:00-5:00pm

Sally Bohls: sboeh@verizon.net

Jennifer Auerbach: director@bocalmajority.com

Oboe and Bassoon Faculty, Coppell ISD
Directors, Bocal Majority Bassoon Camp & Operation O.B.O.E.

www.bocalmajority.com

Beginner Testing for Bassoon and Oboe

Jennifer Auerbach and Sally Bohls

General Information about Selecting Bassoon and Oboe:

Selection of bassoon and oboe players is EXTREMELY limited. Piano experience and note reading ability is required. Students who choose the bassoon will be required to take private lessons.

Physical Characteristics:

A slight overbite is okay for students wishing to play bassoon, however, a student with an under-bite should avoid bassoon. For oboe, braces inhibit sound production – if possible avoid.

Other Considerations:

The oboe and the bassoon are two of the more demanding instruments. Students selected should be intelligent, independent workers, who enjoy a good challenge and doing something special and unique (only a few are selected for this instrument). Students who are selected to play oboe or bassoon are required to take weekly private lessons with the applied lesson teacher.

Interview of a Potential Candidate:

What kind of grades you do get?

Must answer “As” or possibly “As and Bs”

Are you in the gifted program?

Must answer “yes”

Do you like to do what lots of other people are doing or something more special and unique?

Must answer “special and unique”

Have you taken piano lessons and do you read music?

**when I test, I do require this and I actually have them read a few notes for me in treble and bass clef...*

For bassoon: I have them play only on the reed, bocal and wing joint, since it is easier to produce a sound that way. I have them make a round shape with their mouth like saying the word “toe” and I demonstrate that (they must be able to physically make the correct embouchure). I also play for them.

For oboe: I have them play on the oboe and say: put your right hand thumb under the “purple squishy” (the soft thumb rest on the test oboe).

We also have a conversation with parents before completing the deal explaining that: in order to insure the success of their student on this instrument, private lessons are required (or highly recommended, etc...) We explain the cost of lessons, reeds, and that reeds need replacing frequently (monthly, sometimes more often); we explain the difference between machine-made reeds and hand made, and about the beginner camp which we require, and we hand them the brochure for that and ask them to sign up right away.

“Our Middle School”

Costs associated with playing the oboe or bassoon:

Initial Outlay:
Begin

ner kit with the basic supplies (ca. \$100)

- Swab
- Reed case
- Band book
- Cork grease
- Metronome / tuner
- Wire music stand
- Bocal brush (bassoon only)
- Soaker cup

Additional initial items needed:

- Private lesson booklet: **\$10**
- Band fee: ca. **\$150**
- Instrument rental fee **\$150** (annual)
- Optional Fundraiser Fee: **\$125**
- 3 Reeds (@\$20): **\$60**
- Beginner kick-off camp (first week of school, after school): **\$75**

APPROX. TOTAL INITIAL OUTLAY: \$650

Monthly Expenses:
Reeds: **\$20**
each (acquired from
the teacher only), 4

per month

Private lessons: **\$20** each

For example, in a 5-week month, where the student needs 3 reeds, the cost for that month would be \$160

*Reeds
wear out

through use. They last between 2-4 weeks (depending on care). Students need to have 3 WORKING reeds in their case at all times.

Welcome Beginner Oboes and Bassoons!

Sally Bohls (oboe) and Jennifer Auerbach (bassoon) are the double-reed private lesson teachers in our district.

We are looking forward to working with our new beginners next year in private lessons! Everyone who selects bassoon or oboe will come to a class the first week of school to get a good start on their instrument in addition to band class (information below). This is a great week-long camp where students will learn very specific information about how to play the oboe or bassoon, directly from us, their private lesson teachers.

What you should do at this time is sign your student up on our website for the beginner camp by August 15th on the website.

Here are the details:

Beginner Oboe and Bassoon Camps

August 27-31 (Monday-Friday)

4:30-5:30pm

At the high school

Cost: \$XX

We're looking forward to working with you this fall! Let us know if you have any questions.

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Jennifer Auerbach, bassoon

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