

## Cleaning Guide for OBOE

### I. REED

- a. **Gently wipe** the cork grease from the reed with a paper towel or some tissue. Do not rub the cork.
- b. Carefully run some warm water through the reed, beginning from the cork end. Carefully wipe the cork and reed dry. Put it aside on a paper towel to dry completely before returning it to the reed case. Be sure to put fresh cork grease on the reed cork before putting it into the oboe.

### II. TOP JOINT, BOTTOM JOINT, BELL

- a. Materials – clean, soft cloth; child’s soft toothbrush, artist’s paint brush, or woodwind key brush; Q-tips; paper towels; swab.
- b. Procedure
  - i. Swab each joint together with the bell several times. Look through the bore. If the inside is not clean, repeat the procedure until it is.
  - ii. Using the paper towels, clean the cork grease from the tenons on each joint. Clean the tenon receivers in the same way. Use a Q-tip to clean the reed receiver. You may wet the Q-tip with water (nothing else!) to do this.
  - iii. Use a toothpick to clean the tiny hole in each pad cup. Do not force the toothpick any farther than it will go. You could bend the metal if you do so.
  - iv. Use a brush or the Q-tips to clean dust from the areas around and under the keys and rods. Take care not to move any springs.
  - v. Using the soft, clean cloth, wipe the outside areas to remove all fingerprints and smudges. Wipe the keys with this cloth also. **Do not put anything (oil, Vaseline, rubbing alcohol, etc.) on the outside of the oboe!**
  - vi. Put fresh cork grease on the corks when the cleaning process is complete.

### III. THE CASE

- a. You should clean the case each time you clean your instrument. Remove any unnecessary items and find them another home.
- b. Thoroughly vacuum the inside of the case before you return the cleaned instrument to it.
- c. Be sure to store all items (reeds, swab, cork grease, pencil) in the spaces provided so that they do not get under the keys. Put nothing between the top of the case and the oboe.