

Sudden Smile Clarinet

This is a delightful instrument with a powerful sound. The simple fingering of the Sudden Smile Clarinet makes it easy to learn, for children as well as adults. If you follow the instructions in this booklet, you'll be making progress in no time at all—just try it!

Each instrument has been made with loving care and precision. The wood used in each clarinet is of very high quality and has been seasoned for a long time.

The first note

In order to get the most enjoyment from your clarinet it is important to follow the instructions below. If you have problems, always check to see whether you are following these rules:

- 1. Breathe deeply and hold your breath.*
- 2. Put the mouthpiece into your mouth and make sure that:
 - 2.1 Your upper teeth are touching the slope of the mouthpiece one to one and a half centimetres from the mouthpiece support.*
 - 2.2 Your lower lip is slightly arched inwards (over the teeth). It presses against the reed from underneath. The lower part of the jaw supports the pressure of the lower lip. Try not to press only with the lower part of the jaw, squeezing the lower lip between your teeth and the mouthpiece, as you will injure your lip by biting it.*
 - 2.3 Your upper lip should surround the mouthpiece to form an air-tight seal.**

- 3. Pout your lips, parting them to form an "O" (in perfect British English), then pull the corners of your mouth downwards.*
- 4. Now put the tip of your tongue (or the part just behind the tip) on the reed, closing the opening between the reed and the mouthpiece.*
- 5. Let the breath that you've been holding pour into your mouth. There will be no sound from the instrument yet as you are blocking it with your tongue.*
- 6. Pull your tongue back just as though you were saying the "DE" in "Derby" (British pronunciation) and hold it there. The air will enter the clarinet, making the reed vibrate and producing a sound.*
- 7. To bring the sound to an end, return your tongue to its initial position. It is important that the air pressure and the pressure of your lips doesn't change until your tongue has concluded the sound.*
- 8. To achieve that typical melancholy and blues-like clarinet sound you have to practice. Those who don't have much experience in playing reed instruments will tend to produce wavering and unclear sounds in the first 2 or 3 weeks. A good method of converting these wavering and unclear sounds into accurate, steady and powerful ones is to practice one continuous sound again and again. Playing a continuous sound makes it easier to find out what makes it unsteady and how to avoid it, or even produce it deliberately.*

Remember—practice makes perfect!