

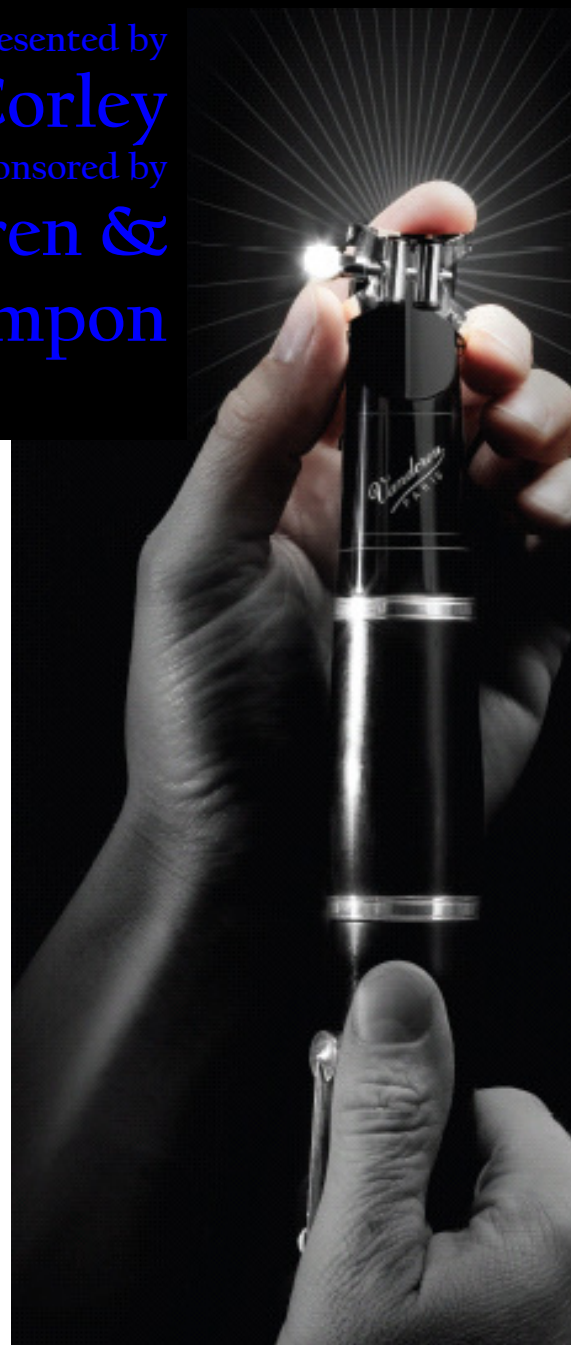
Middle School Master Class

presented by

Paula Corley

sponsored by

**Vandoren &
Buffet Crampon**



If you enjoyed my clinic today, please visit my website: www.clarinetcity.com. There you will find additional instructional materials for clarinet, all free and ready to download. There are also sample pages from my method books and copyright -free arrangements to play with your clarinet friends.

Thanks for playing.
paula@clarinetcity.com

I play Vandoren M15 mouthpiece, 3.5 Traditional Vandoren Reeds, Optimum ligature. My instrument is the TOSCA (Bb & A) from Buffet Crampon Clarinets.

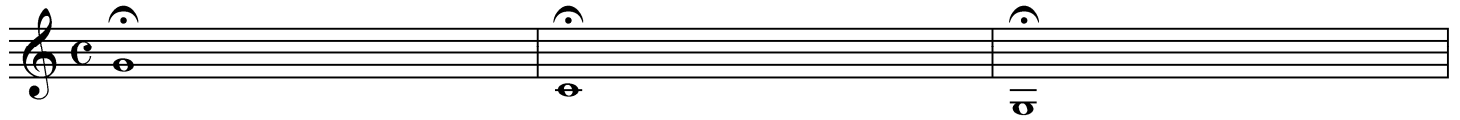
Paula Corley is a life-long educator having completed 24 years of teaching at the secondary and collegiate level. She has conducted workshops all over the US including those for the International Clarinet Association, The Midwest Clinic, Oklahoma University's Clarinet Symposium, Indiana University's Clarinet Teaching Workshop, Women Band Directors International, and for the Texas, Arkansas, and North Carolina Music Educators Associations.

She currently serves as an educational advisor for both Vandoren and Buffet Crampon, and maintains a teaching forum on www.clarinetcity.com. She performs with The Urban Winds Project, a chamber music group in the Austin, Texas area.

Make Me Sound Better Now!

By Paula Corley - Courtesy of www.clarinetcity.com

Warming up does not mean playing high, loud, and fast as soon as the instrument goes into your mouth. Play long tones first before anything else. Try to hold each one for 12 seconds (one breath).



Questions to ask:

Is the reed responding to your liking? If not, loosen the ligature and move it 'around' on the mouthpiece until you find the 'sweet spot.'

Is the sound clear or is it fuzzy? Check the reed strength. Make sure it is appropriate for the mouthpiece. Reeds that are too hard will sound fuzzy.

Register Shift Warm-ups

Register shifts are perhaps the most important exercise for developing players. Start with a note that is easy to play - Middle C - and work backwards (lower) and forwards (higher) until you can play the full range of the instrument. Advanced players who can navigate the chromatic scale without hand position squeaks should start with low E and do all.

1. Make sure the bottom note is clear and played full value.
2. Use a fast air stream always.

Help! The top note won't speak:

1. Air stream is too slow.
2. Tongue may be too low. Think "hee" as you play.
3. Grip is not firm enough.

Bottom note and top note must match in volume and quality. Do not blow harder to make the upper note speak. If the bottom note is vibrant and clear, the top note should speak.

Once you can play both registers with a focused sound, it's time to practice articulating (tonguing) the same notes.

The key to good articulation is a fast air stream. The tongue interrupts the air but does not STOP the air stream.

Practice speaking the exercise first using "Tee" or something similar. Always use "EE" as the vowel sound. "EE" will keep your tongue in the correct position.

Start with the notes in Goal #1. Be diligent. Keep working until each pair speaks.

Goal #1



Goal #2 is a bit more challenging because of the fingering. Squeaks on these notes may be caused by the fourth finger of the right hand. The bottom hole on the clarinet (that corresponds to this finger) is large, making it difficult to keep covered.

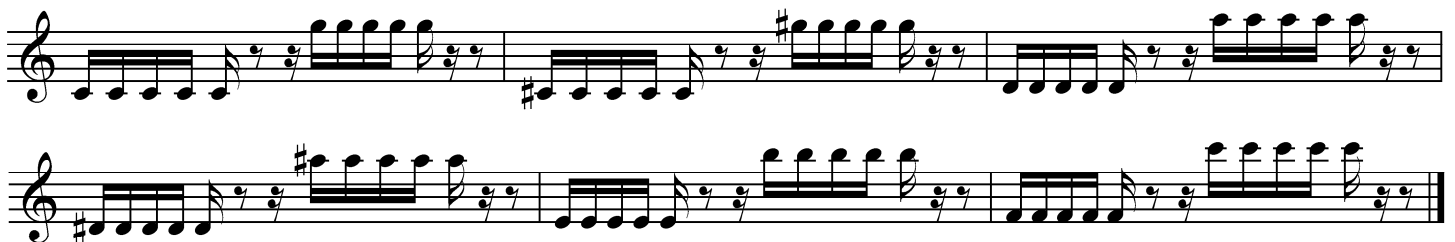
Goal #2



Goal #3 is also challenging because you move to the top of the "tube" (clarinet) to the notes E/B and F/C.

These notes sometimes "growl" and won't speak. This happens because the tongue is not in the EE position and the air stream is not fast enough. If you have difficulty with these notes, try using warmer air.

Goal #3



Must learn, must practice articulated scales

Scales should be like eating and sleeping: something you do everyday without thinking about it. If you eat well, sleep well, and exercise you will look and feel great. Include scales in every practice session so that you will play great!



all slurred - up & down slur 2, slur 2 - up & down slur 2, tongue 2 - up and down

clean is better than fast ♩ = 120

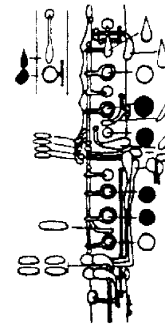


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A sensible way to approach the "high notes"



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