

Oboe Curriculum

Dr. Dominique Bellon

Freshman Year:

Goals:

- Develop proper sound production – understanding of breathing, support, and embouchure
- Develop good working habits and structure for your practice sessions
- Become comfortable playing in all keys
- Play with good intonation
- Play with accurate rhythms and articulations
- Develop good musicianship – understanding of style and structure that informs phrasing, dynamics, character, etc...
- Learn basic reed making skills

Long tones:

Low D major scale, 2 octaves (for control in all registers)
Crescendo-decrescendo on one note

Scales:

All major scales – range up to E
Five-note scale patterns

Etudes:

Barret, Forty Progressive Melodies

Repertoire (sample):

Any Albinoni concerti
Handel, Sonatas and Concerto in G minor
Cimarosa, Concerto
Haydn, Concerto
Nielsen, Two Fantasy Pieces
Britten, Six Metamorphoses after Ovid

Sophomore Year

Goals

- Continue previously stated goals
- Develop more fluency and agility in technique
- Develop more analytical skills (self-evaluation and comments in studio class)
- Introduce notions of baroque style and ornamentation
- Develop more advanced reed making skills

Continue long tones

Scales:

All major scale full range

Flute scale pattern (to be explained) in major
Natural minor, harmonic minor and melodic minor scales

Etudes:

Brod Etudes
Ferling, 48 Studies

Repertoire (sample)

Marcello, Concerto for oboe
Bach, Arias with oboe obligato from church cantatas
Vivaldi, Concerto in D minor
Mozart, Oboe Quartet
Paladilhle, Morceau de concert
Britten, Metamorphoses, Two Insect Pieces
Saint-Saens, Sonata
Français, L'Horloge de Flore

Junior Year

Goals

- Continue previously stated goals
- Develop more technical agility and speed with the fingers
- Begin studying orchestral excerpts
- Become a more independent reed maker
- Become more independent at making musical decisions—phrasing, dynamics, character, articulations, etc.
- Become a more skilled ensemble player (cuing, indicating breaths, balance, etc.)

Continue long-tones

Scales

All major scales full range (to G), increase speed to MM=100
Minor harmonic and melodic scales
Bleuzet, *Exercices de gammes* (use for scales in rhythms and articulations; can also be used to work on long tones and trills)
Major scales in thirds

Etudes

Ferling, 48 Studies (more control, dynamic contrasts, expression, etc.)
Luft, 24 Etudes
Debondue, Etudes
Small - Rhythmic Etudes for Saxophone

Repertoire (sample)

Bach, Sonatas (from flute sonatas)
Telemann, Fantasies
Mozart, Concerto in C
Poulenc, Oboe Sonata

Vaughan Williams, Concerto for Oboe
Hindemith, Sonata
Walter Piston, Suite

Orchestral Excerpts (sample)

Beethoven, Third Symphony (Eroica)
Rimsky-Korsakov, Scheherazade
Tchaikovsky, Fourth Symphony
Straus, Don Juan Solo and opening

Senior Year

Goals

- Continuation of all previously stated goals
- Have a good knowledge of all the standard oboe repertoire and excerpts
- Become more adventurous with picking your own repertoire
- Become an independent musician capable of making well-informed musical decisions
- Be able to make a well-balanced reed without help on a consistent basis

Continue Long Tones

Scales

All the above scales, increase speed to MM=112 for major and minor scales
First four pages of Vade Mecum

Etudes

Barret, Grand Studies

Repertoire (sample)

J.S. Bach, Sonata in G minor, BWV1030b
Vivaldi, Sonata in G minor
Schumann, Three Romances
Poulenc, Trio for oboe, bassoon and piano
Strauss, Oboe Concerto
Kaliwoda, Morceau de Salon
Persichetti, Parable

Orchestral Excerpts

Brahms, Violin Concerto
Rossini, La Scala di Seta
Prokofiev, Classical Symphony (oboe 1 and 2)
Ravel, Le tombeau de Couperin
Stravinsky, Pucinella Suite