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F 337

Blackwell

18 September, 2014

Lesson Reflection

Clarinet Private Lesson 1: Emily King- Freshman BSOF clarinet major, emanking@imail.iu.edu

In our lesson, we got to cover most of the concepts mentioned in the guidelines page. The first thing we talked about was embouchure; how the bottom lip is tucked in, teeth barely touching mouthpiece, corners back, etc. We worked on making sure my embouchure looked good and did what it was supposed to be doing. I personally had a tendency to take not as much mouthpiece as I should be so I needed to work on making that a habit. Tonguing was next; tip of the tongue on the tip of the reed. This is a hard concept to master, even Emily says she is working with her teacher currently to try and perfect tonguing but for now my tonguing was good. The only thing in hand positions was to make sure your fingers stay close to the holes so you can change notes easier without missing the hole. Going over all of these beginning concepts helped me see how you are supposed to play clarinet correctly and some thing kids might do wrong and how to fix them.

Some recommended books she said, for more experienced players, was the Hal Leonard books and the Rose Etudes. Those are the main clarinet books that most people work out of. Some middle/high school solo literature included the Waber Concerto, Mozart Concerto, and the Solo de Concouers by Raubaud. Ppoular performers included Martin Frost and Sabine Myer. To go off of this, they both have very good examples of recordings I might like to add to my library

for clarinet players. Emily also mentioned her teacher, James Cambell, has very good recordings as does David Cambell (no relation).

General comments on secondary instruments included talking about the Eb, A, and bass clarinet. The Eb is smaller and very different than a Bb clarinet. You have to use much different air as well as a completely different embouchure in order to play it. The A clarinet is only used in orchestral playing and it is basically the same as a Bb clarinet, no major differences unlike the Eb. The bass clarinet is also very similar to the playing of a Bb. The only main difference is it is pitched much lower and will have some new fingerings when you get to the low notes.

Some of the last things we talked about were just general equipment you should have for woodwind repair and the problem notes on the instrument. Some general equipment you should have are reeds, ligatures, and extra mouthpieces. Problem notes include throat tones, when going over the break mainly from A to B, and from high C-C# because of the tuning. This lesson helped solidify some of the basics I know and it helped expand my knowledge of the clarinet for future reference. Now when people have generally basics problems or questions, I will be able to answer them and help them out and not have to seek someone else for assistance. At some point or another all of these problems will come up and the lesson helped teach me what I can do to fix it when it happens.