

TAKING CARE OF YOUR RECORDER



Playing in Your New Recorder

Concerning: recorders made of wood

The wood of a new recorder easily absorbs moisture, especially in the windway and labium. If it becomes too much, the wood swells and warps. To carefully accustom the instrument to the stresses of playing, it should only be played for short periods during the first few weeks.

The times given below serve as guidelines. If the instrument quickly becomes hoarse, you should stop playing. After playing, the instrument must be allowed to dry thoroughly (see the tutorial 'After playing: Drying') and must be completely dry before playing again.

The recorder must also be accustomed to varying breathing pressure, so it is advisable to begin in the lower register with long sustained notes and slow runs, gradually expanding the range, pace and technique week by week.

All this sounds more complicated than it actually is. If you listen carefully to your recorder, you will quickly recognize its needs and also discover that the recorder can adapt too.

Children can also break in their recorders themselves. Whether with the support of a teacher or on their own, breaking in the instrument strengthens the bond with it and allows children to gain valuable experience.

If the recorder keeps clogging despite being played in, or if the sound deteriorates, it should be sent to the manufacturer for repair. For an experienced recorder maker, this problem, which can also occur later on, is easy to fix.

During the first 6 weeks, certain playing times should not be exceeded:

1st week
c. 5 minutes
a day

2nd week
c. 10 minutes
a day

3rd week
c. 15 minutes
a day

**Each
additional week**
+ 5 min.
additional

After approxi-
mately **6 weeks**,
the break-in
period should be
complete.