



# Instrument Tuning Guide

## Oboe/ English Horn

### Basic Tuning Rules

1. Warm up using long tones before tuning.
2. Always use sufficient air support and play at a mezzo forte dynamic level.
3. Do not use vibrato or try to manipulate the tuning note—play it straight.
4. Before completing the worksheet, tune to the pitches shown below. Adjust the reed if the pitch is flat or sharp.

### Your Tuning Notes



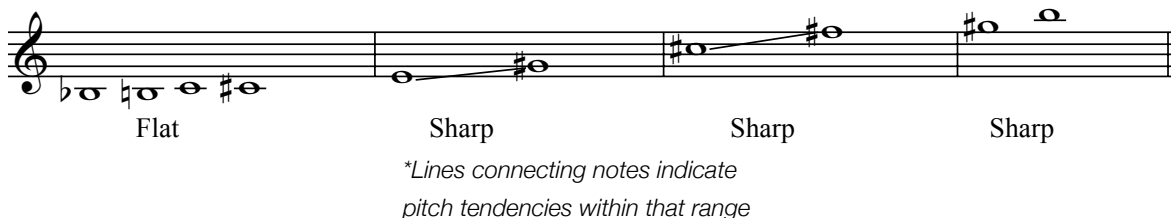
### Your Tuning Mechanism

DO NOT MOVE THE REED. Oboe tuning is dependent on a properly adjusted reed (shaving/cutting) and playing with a good embouchure. It is possible on the English horn to use bocals of slightly different lengths to raise or lower the pitch, but having a well-formed embouchure and good reed is the preferred method.

### How to Adjust a Pitch While Playing

- Flat: increase amount of reed in mouth, increase embouchure pressure.
- Sharp: decrease amount of reed in mouth, decrease embouchure pressure.
- Alternate fingerings

### Common “Out of Tune” Notes





# Pitch Tendency Worksheet

## Oboe & English Horn

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

Ensemble \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument Make and Model \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Keep this in your Band Binders. (Do not throw away) You will need it next year in band.*

### Directions

Step 1: Tune your instrument carefully using the Pitch Tendency Guide on the previous page.

Step 2: Close your eyes before playing each note below. Hold it until the pitch is steady.

Step 3: Open your eyes. Do not adjust the pitch! Write down the pitch tendency on the chart below

*\*Write how many cents sharp (+) or flat (-) you were on each note. Example: -10 or +10*

### Chromatic Scale

Four staves of musical notation for a chromatic scale. Each staff contains eight notes with accidentals and a blank line below for recording pitch tendencies.

### Pitch Tendencies using "Terraced Dynamics"

A single staff of musical notation for "Terraced Dynamics" with dynamic markings (*p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*) and a blank line below for recording pitch tendencies.