UWSP Wind Ensemble oboists after their terrific concert

Reed all about it!

The oboe studio is part of the outstanding Department of Music at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. Oboists can pursue degrees in music, music performance and music education. Many music students are even double majors outside of music! A new opportunity is an Instrumental Performance Certificate for intensive music performance studies as a non-major.

Visit

If you are considering UWSP, come for a day on campus and attend classes and rehearsals, get a lesson with Prof. Berk and meet students already in the program. This is the best way to see if UWSP is the right place for you.

Oboe in Football Season

Now that school is in session, many high school oboists are involved in bands and wind ensembles, but not everyone has the option of playing their oboes at school if the school has marching band in place of concert band. While I appreciate marching bands and the lessons and friendships they promote (I was in the percussion line in high school and drum major in my college band), marching band doesn’t help double reed players develop on their instruments. If you find yourself in this situation, or are even just too busy with other obligations, there are still ways to combat your oboes skills from slipping. Obviously the best way would be to take private lessons and to work with an oboe teacher outside of school.

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If private lessons are not an option, then search for great oboe recordings and add them to your playlists. There are many options today for downloading excellent recordings. Listen to amazing performers and ingrain their tone into your ideal of what an oboe should sound like. Some suggested oboists are: Diana Doherty, Allan Vogel, Hansjörg Schellenberger, Eugene Izotov, Alex Klein and François Leleux. Students who have a clear concept of what professional oboists sound like are more likely to adapt their embouchures and the shape of their mouths to try to recreate that sound. Without that sense of quality tone, students sometimes just play the reed and allow it to be as bright and “reedy” as it wants to be.

Secondly, you’ll need to find some time with the oboe and get your “chops” (both embouchure and fingers) in shape. Find some music and sight read pieces. Pick one to work on, and enjoy the process of making it better every time you practice. One book I particularly like is Oboe Solos, edited by Jay Arnold (available on Amazon) as it has a variety of great pieces to study.

So if you’re in marching band, enjoy the experience and all that it offers! In the meantime, though, keep developing your skills on the oboe so you can be prepared for your concert ensemble rehearsals with strong embouchures, good air support and a solid sense of tone.

Aaron Rodgers doesn’t play the oboe, but imagine how much he would practice if he did! Excellence takes time and effort but is worth it.

Online Events Calendar

The College of Fine Arts & Communication is a vibrant college with events to attend almost daily during the school year! For information about current events, LIKE us on Facebook or visit our web page at www.uwsp.edu/cofac to view the schedule of events.

Why study music at UWSP?

22:1 student to faculty ratio
100% graduates hired or enrolled in graduate school within one year of graduating
Multiple large ensemble and chamber music opportunities for students
Personal attention in a supportive environment with high expectations

I appreciate hearing from you!
Please call or email.

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