

# Jim's Music and Teaching Center

## Wood Wind Information



### Woodwind Playing Condition

Our repair shop focuses on preventative maintenance of instruments, rather than the 'quick fix'. We feel that our customers are better served by sending in the instrument fewer times, resulting in fewer last minute emergencies, less frustration and ultimately less cost in down time and money. We will do any repair necessary to put the instrument into solid playing condition. This includes:

- Straighten bent bodies
- Removal of all dents impairing key action and airflow
- Refit joints
- Solder braces, guards, posts and joints
- Replace any torn, worn or dirty pads and corks
- Clean if necessary to restore proper key action and playability

We also consider the condition of the case to be part of preventative maintenance. Faulty latches and hinges could cause serious damage to the instrument.

### Tear down and clean

It used to be that the common chemicals used to clean band instruments were not only harmful to the dirt in the instrument, but also to the technician and the environment. A few years ago a new solution was developed which was not harmful in any way. This new solution is less aggressive than what was previously available, so in the cases of extremely dirty instruments, a second or third dip may be necessary to achieve the best results.

On Woodwind instruments this involves the complete disassembly of all keys and guards. The keys are hand cleaned and the hinge tubes and