

Looking After Your Wooden Recorder

For player a who has acquired their first wooden recorder, Julie Dean's booklet is essential reading, filling a gap in the recorder literature: in 27 pages she encapsulates the necessary 'know how' about caring for wooden recorders. Julie outlines basic information about the structure of recorders and the temperamental habits of wood before discussing common problems and their prevention and solution, particularly around the block and windway. Her 'best care routines' could well be followed by all woodwind players and include not only the windway (surely the heart and soul of the recorder) but also more mundane problems with joints and thumb-holes. An extensive section is devoted to the mystique and necessity of oiling, presenting (at least to my mind) the clearest technique in the literature.

Julie lays down essential tips on blowing in a new recorder and gives 'diagnostic' tips on common problems. Most importantly, she emphasises the importance of accessing professional help when a recorder is misbehaving, cautioning against a D I Y approach to blocks and windways.

The booklet is beautifully illustrated in colour, and at £5.50 is an excellent investment for which any player (and their recorder!) will be grateful.

If you are seeking a small gift (or, at this time of year, a stocking filler) for a recorder player, look no further.

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