

# 38 Challenging your Bass Clarinets

## **Lessons from my history with low clarinets**

Don't switch a kid that doesn't like the instrument

They won't practice, won't improve and won't enjoy the experience

I started liking bass clarinet when I started teaching great kids who loved the instrument and worked hard.

Lesson learned from ignorance - Teach bass clarinet (basically) like you would clarinet

## **Guidelines for challenging bass clarinetists**

They will forget what they don't keep practicing (higher notes)

Always play 2 octave scales

Play register studies

Full warm-up

Tonguing in all ranges

Full range chromatic scale (into altissimo, possibly high G)

Pick solos that go up to high C if possible (at least high G)

## **Additional Idea**

Show them the high school music (give them a copy to work on alone if you can't help them on it.) At least they see it and know they should keep playing full range. Be sure you've looked at the all-state music in your state so you know what is expected of your students.

## **Quality instruments**

This episode assumes the students are on good quality, working instruments. My students play on the absolute top of the line amazing bass clarinets. This greatly affects how much the student is able to progress!