

## Checklist for Students

The following is a general checklist to use if a student is having difficulty with note clarity, tone quality, and general performance issues when first starting the bassoon. Students should already have an understanding of these topics. More complete descriptions of topics mentioned in this checklist can be found under Guide to Bassoon.

Checklist for Common Bassoon Problems	
<b>Instrument angle:</b> Not leaning forward or backward, angled between approximately 65-75° to the floor on the players left side.	
<b>Left hand playing position:</b> Bassoon is resting in-between the index finger and thumb with a straight wrist while playing.	
<b>Right hand playing position:</b> Right hand should have a straight wrist and thumb just above the Low E key.	
<b>Head position:</b> Head is vertical and aligned with the spine, not tilting in any direction or across any axis.	
<b>Reed position in the mouth:</b> Reed is approximately 2/3 <sup>rd</sup> s into the mouth (except in the extreme ranges of the bassoon) and rotated clockwise on the bocal to be parallel to the floor and allow the head to remain un-tilted while playing.	
<b>Embouchure:</b> Lips are rounded like a drawstring bag around the reed creating an air seal. Mouth and throat are in a shape to say “ohh” while playing.	
<b>Air stream:</b> Focused and steady air across the full range of the bassoon.	
<b>Tone holes:</b> All fingers are pressed down using the pads of the fingers over tone holes and creating complete air seals.	
<b>Keys:</b> Keys are pressed down fully they completely close the tone hole they are intended to close.	
<b>Flicking/venting fingerings:</b> Flicking/Venting is being done with the correct corresponding key.	
<b>Half-hole fingerings:</b> Half-hole tone holes are the appropriate size for the note you are playing.	