

## TONE 3 CLARINET – EMBOUCHURE EXERCISES

The following exercises will help in relaxing your embouchure and improving your breathing.

### 1. WARM/COLD AIR

- Hold a long note.
- Imagine you are blowing out a candle on the other side of the room. Your throat will take a narrow shape. This is blowing *cold air*.
- Imagine you are fogging up a whole window with a single breath on a cold morning. Your mouth will take a wide open shape. This is blowing *warm air*.
- Practise going between these two different mouth shapes as you hold your note. In general we need the *cold air* in our high register and the *warm air* in our low register.
- Play a piece with the *warm air* mouth shape then try it with the *cold air* mouth shape.

### 2. VOWEL SHAPES

- Hold a long note.
- Slowly shape the back of your throat as though you are reciting your vowels – A E I O U. Exaggerate the shape – make it big as though you were loudly singing.
- Play some scales or pieces experimenting with each vowel shape. They will change your tone and pitch.

### 3. COMPLETELY RELAX MOUTH

- Hold a long note.
- Keep your lips sealed so air can't escape but relax as much of your mouth as possible. Let your jaw drop and your cheeks puff.
- With no pressure on the reed the only thing getting the sound out is your breath. If no sound comes out you have been relying too much on squeezing the reed. Focus on breathing firmly from your diaphragm while your mouth remains relaxed until you can produce a sound. [it won't be a nice sound!]